PLAN BELIZE 2.0

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FROM PROMISE TO PERFORMANCE

PM Delivers Budget Built on Hard Work, Success & Vision

"I wish to salute, right at the outset of my presentation, the exemplary work of our public officers and teachers, of our private sector partners, of those in the NGO community and our external bilateral and multilateral partners, all of whom deserve a fair share of the praise for Belize's spectacular revival. Moving from promise to performance, from the shifting sands of 2020 to the firm bedrock of 2025, is truly a story of teamwork." **– PM John Briceño**

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A Nation Empowered: Honoring Women In Leadership

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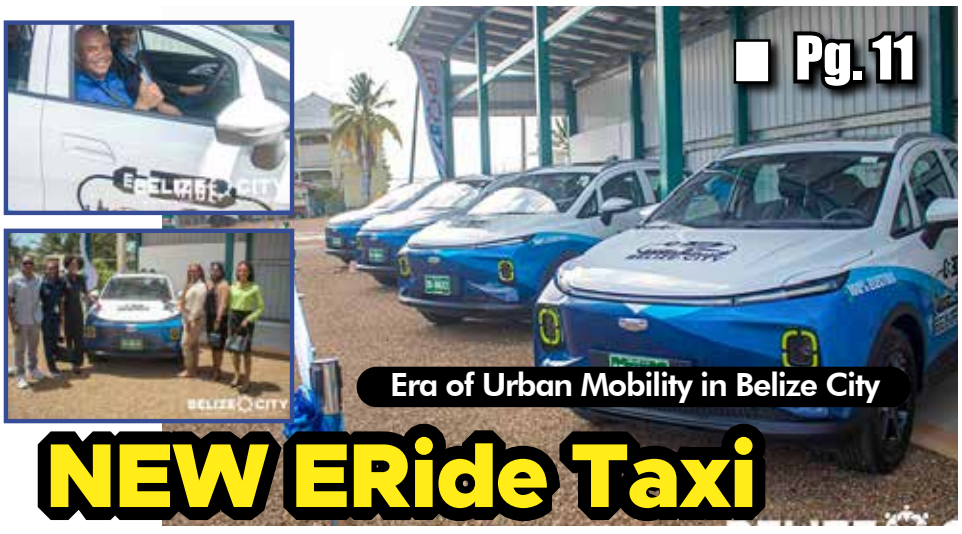

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Happy Families Day 2025

FROM PROMISE TO PERFORMANCE

On May 12th, 2025, Prime Minister John Briceño presented the Budget for fiscal year 2025/2026 in the House of Representatives. Titled 'From Promise to Performance,' the address more than anything revealed the glaring contract between this administration and the Barrow administration which in 2020 left the country in social and economic ruin.

When the United Democratic Party left office, according to the IMF, GDP had shrunk by 14.1%, tens of thousands of Belizeans were without work, salaries of public sector employees has been cut and increments cancelled and devaluation and retrenchment were virtual certainties. In 2025, the IMF reports that Belize had the highest GDP growth rate in the Western Hemisphere, at 8.2%, second only to the oil exporting nation of Guyana. Additionally, 97 out of every 100 Belizeans who seek jobs are now working, and this Government has achieved a primary budget surplus each year in office.

The minimum wage was raised for all workers to $5 per hour, and the debt to GDP ratio currently stands at 61%, a level achieved 7 years ahead of the IMF's projected timeline. More importantly, the threat of devaluation is a thing of the past and the Belize dollar is stronger than ever. Additionally, said the PM, "our most important achievement is the reversal of the poverty crisis we inherited, lifting thousands out of poverty." In 2025, the poverty index has fallen to 22%, from 52% in 2020.

And there were many more tangible records outlined in the Budget which follows an overwhelming show of confidence by the people, reflected at the polls on March 12th, 2025.

"In our first term, we attracted an astounding 368 million dollars in Foreign Direct Investment. In 2024 BPOs paid a record 150 million dollars in salaries to 16,000 Belizean workers. Tourist arrivals set a record of 562,000 overnight visitors, making our tourism sector the most dynamic it has ever been. GOB raised the income tax threshold which moved an additional 3000 workers off the tax roll. GOB put 20,000 lots in the hands of Belizeans, abolished fees at all public hospitals and clinics and wrote off 54 million dollars in bills at the KHMH, benefitting poor Belizeans," PM Briceño recounted.

And there is a lot to look forward to in the very near future, according to the Prime Minister – "In this financial year, as promised, the National Health Insurance program will finally become national with the expansion that covers the 93,416 Belizeans of the Cayo District. To achieve optimal coverage in the Western Region, eight primary care providers and seven satellite clinics will be enlisted, with a focus in the population hubs of San Ignacio/Santa Elena, Belmopan and Benque Viejo del Carmen."

Massive projects will also be undertaken, enhanced or expanded this fiscal year, including the construction of the hospital in San Pedro and the tertiary hospital in Belmopan, a solar energy plant to provide energy independence, water and sewage in rural communities, renewable energy project in rural communities, the expansion of the feeding and free education programs in schools, the upgrading of the George Price Highway from Belize City to Hattieville in the first phase, the paving of the Commerce Bight Road, more affordable housing and many other projects.

In conclusion, PM Briceño noted that under this administration, the success is in much more than the numbers- "in the most recent Happiness Report for 2024, Belize placed 25th of 147 countries polled, and 5th in the entire Western Hemisphere. Such a high ranking for our small, vulnerable country in this increasingly turbulent world is an impressive statement of the national mood.

Happiness, whether for a nation or an individual is highly subjective. It's not political – you do not campaign on the promise of delivering happiness. Still, the relative happiness of the Belizean people suggests that our governance approach, including this Budget, is striking a highly effective balance, on the one hand, ushering in a period of opportunity and prosperity while on the other, preserving the good spirits and unique optimism that has for so long defined us."

The Budget is scheduled to be debated this coming May 26th, 27th and 28th.

UWG PRESS RELEASE

A NATION EMPOWERED: HONORING WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

May 10, 2025

Belize is witnessing a new era of women-led leadership, a vibrant testament to progress, inclusion, and the undeniable power of female voices in shaping the nation's future. We proudly congratulate the phenomenal women currently serving in the highest realms of public office: Her Excellency Governor General Dame Froyla Tzalam; Hon. Valerie Woods, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Hon. Carolyn Trench Sandiford, President of the Senate; Mrs. Clarita Pech, Clerk of the National Assembly; and Parliamentarians, Hon. Thea Garcia Ramirez, Hon. Dolores Balderamos Garcia, Hon. Rozel Arana and Hon. Brittney Galvez. These women are not just leaders, they are changemakers, and they are inspiring a generation.

This dynamic transformation would not be possible without the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño, whose unwavering commitment to gender equity has opened unprecedented doors for women across the nation. Massive kudos to the Prime Minister for appointing an outstanding slate of women CEOs who are redefining governance across sectors. Among these groundbreaking leaders are Narda Garcia, CEO in the Office of the Prime Minister, Investment and Civil Aviation; Her Excellency Ambassador Amalia Mai at Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Culture; Tanya Santos Neal in Immigration; Sharole Saldivar in Home Affairs and New Growth Industries; Nicole Usher Solano in Tourism, Youth, Sports and Diaspora Relations; Milagro Matus in Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management; Dian Maheia in Education, Science and Technology; Beverly Wade in Blue Economy and Marine Conservation; and Adele Catzim in Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs. Together these phenomenal leaders showcase how far Belize has come in placing capable, brilliant women at the heart of national decision-making.

A special spotlight shines on Hon. Brittney Galvez, newly appointed Government Senator and Assistant Secretary of the United Women's Group National Executive. As a Program Coordinator in the Office of the Special Envoy within the Prime Minister's Office and an active member of the Belize Youth Movement, her appointment marks a powerful step forward for young, dynamic women in national leadership. The United Women's Group proudly celebrates this milestone, recognizing Brittney's unwavering commitment to youth empowerment, gender equity, and public service.

The Belize Times

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EDITORIAL

SENSE FROM NONSENSE

It is easy to get caught up in the hysteria of emotionalism, particularly in the era of social media which offers a practically unlimited forum of expression to political fanatics, paid and otherwise, and to 'experts' in every field, albeit without diploma or degree. Various elements of the media which pander shamelessly to sensationalism and political agenda without any resort to reason or objective thinking do not help. Conflict drives follows, resolution does not. Good news is boring. We don't want peace. We want problems.

There is no catastrophe or national Armageddon where the unions and government are concerned. That is not good news for the media, but it is what it is. There is some confusion in the messages coming from the BNTU and the PSU, but it boils down to money. Whether it is couched as a salary increase or increments returned, it's all about the money. And that's normal. Everybody wants more money – from the farmers in their canefields from 4:00 every morning and the sanitation workers up before the break of dawn to clean our streets and drains, to entrepreneurs and office workers and yes, CEOs.

The teachers and public officers, therefore, want more money. And they are willing to demonstrate for it, and that's fine. They have the right to do so. The Government is doing exactly what it is supposed to do – sit down at the table with the unions to find a way forward which will be sustainable, and which makes good financial sense. And as they have before, the parties will negotiate cordially and respectfully until there is a resolution. This is what is supposed to happen.

There has been absolutely no acrimony displayed by government toward the unions, at any point – at least by this administration. The same cannot be said of the former administration, which held the unions in open disdain. In fact, teachers and public officers should remember very well that it was then Prime Minister Dean Barrow who froze their increments in 2020 and did so while heaping insults on the unions.

What the Briceño administration has done since entering office is nothing short of extraordinary. So extraordinary that it has become easy to forget that just a few years ago the nation was in the grips of unprecedented economic devastation. It is easy to forget that as a people we have been faced with a direct hit from a hurricane, wildfires and floods. It is easy to forget that more than half of our population lived in abject poverty five years ago, and the previous government had borrowed so much that it had indebted Belizeans for generations and could not pay.

It is important to remember that a Government works for ALL people, but it is unrealistic for ALL people to get ALL they want ALL the time. That is a certain recipe for disaster. But it is not as if the teachers and public officers et al have been ignored or pushed aside. In fact, under this administration they have received unprecedented access to affordable financing through the DFC and National Bank. They have received unprecedented access to land – in fact, an entire tract of land in Belmopan has been allocated to public officers. There have been land clinics targeted specifically to teachers. All Belizeans, including public officers and teachers, benefit from access to National Health Insurance, which is rolling out countrywide, and from the removal of ALL fees and costs at public hospitals and clinics countrywide. They also benefit from the FREE EDUCATION program in secondary schools, because they have children who go to these schools, and from unprecedented education assistance to students.

At all times, Government has a responsibility to all its people. Its projects and programs, including health, education, social and infrastructure initiatives, benefit all persons in all communities.

For the purpose of hype, in these times, every entity that has a major demand will insist that they are the hardest working entity in the world, and the most valuable, and the most deserving. They will speak of their sacrifices, their selflessness, and all they do above and beyond. They will insist that they have been ignored and disregarded and victimized and are just one step away from being unable to put food on the table.

A responsible Government must stay grounded in reality, and not get distracted by hype or hyperbole. This administration will make the right decisions for the people and for the country, free from agendas and media sensationalism. Our record speaks for itself.

en Español

HACIENDO SENTIDO DE DISPARATES

Es fácil quedar atrapado en la histeria del emocionalismo, sobre todo en la era de las redes sociales que ofrecen un foro de expresión prácticamente ilimitado a los fanáticos políticos, remunerados o no, y a los «expertos» en todos los campos, aunque carezcan de diploma o título. Varios elementos de los medios de comunicación que alaban descaradamente el sensacionalismo y la agenda política sin recurrir a la razón o al pensamiento objetivo no ayudan. El conflicto sigue, la resolución no. Las buenas noticias aburren. No queremos paz. Queremos problemas.

No hay catástrofe ni Armagedón nacional en lo que respecta a los sindicatos y el gobierno. No son buenas noticias para los medios de comunicación, pero es lo que hay. Hay cierta confusión en los mensajes procedentes del BNTU y del PSU, pero todo se reduce al dinero. Todo se reduce al dinero, ya sea un aumento salarial o la devolución de incrementos. Y es normal. Todo el mundo quiere más dinero: desde los agricultores en sus campos de caña desde las cuatro de la mañana y los trabajadores de saneamiento levantados antes del amanecer para limpiar nuestras calles y desagües, hasta los empresarios y oficinistas y, sí, los CEO.

Los profesores y funcionarios públicos, por tanto, quieren más dinero. Y están dispuestos a manifestarse para conseguirlo, y eso está bien. Tienen derecho a hacerlo. El Gobierno está haciendo exactamente lo que se supone que debe hacer: sentarse a la mesa con los sindicatos para encontrar una forma de avanzar que sea sostenible y que tenga sentido desde el punto de vista financiero. Y como han hecho antes, las partes negociarán cordial y respetuosamente hasta que se llegue a una solución. Eso es lo que debe ocurrir.

El Gobierno no ha mostrado ningún tipo de acritud hacia los sindicatos, al menos por parte de esta administración. No puede decirse lo mismo de la administración anterior que desdeñaba abiertamente a los sindicatos. De hecho, los profesores y funcionarios públicos deberían recordar muy bien que fue el entonces primer ministro Dean Barrow quien congeló sus incrementos en 2020 y lo hizo mientras profería insultos contra los sindicatos.

Lo que ha hecho el gobierno de Briceño desde su llegada al poder es extraordinario. Tan extraordinario que resulta fácil olvidar que hace tan sólo unos años la nación se encontraba sumida en una devastación económica sin precedentes. Es fácil olvidar que como pueblo nos hemos enfrentado al impacto directo de un huracán, a incendios forestales y a inundaciones. Es fácil olvidar que más de la mitad de nuestra población vivía en la más absoluta pobreza hace cinco años, y que el Gobierno anterior había pedido prestado tanto que había endeudado a los beliceños durante generaciones y no podía pagar.

Es importante recordar que un Gobierno trabaja para TODAS las personas, pero no es realista que TODAS las personas obtengan TODO lo que quieren TODO el tiempo. Esa es una receta segura para el desastre. Pero no es que se haya ignorado ni dejado de lado a los profesores y funcionarios públicos, entre otros. De hecho, bajo esta administración han recibido un acceso sin precedentes a una financiación asequible a través del DFC y el Banco Nacional. Han recibido un acceso sin precedentes a la tierra - de hecho, una extensión entera de tierra en Belmopan ha sido asignada a funcionarios públicos. Ha habido clínicas de terrenos destinadas específicamente a los profesores. Todos los beliceños, incluidos funcionarios públicos y profesores, se benefician del acceso al Seguro Nacional de Salud, que se está extendiendo por todo el país, y de la eliminación de TODAS las tasas y costes en los hospitales y clínicas públicas de todo el país. También se benefician del programa de EDUCACIÓN GRATUITA en las escuelas secundarias, porque tienen hijos que van a estas escuelas, y de una ayuda educativa sin precedentes para los estudiantes.

En todo momento, el Gobierno tiene una responsabilidad con todo su pueblo. Sus proyectos y programas, incluidas las iniciativas sanitarias, educativas, sociales y de infraestructuras, benefician a todas las personas de todas las comunidades.

A efectos de bombo y platillo, en estos tiempos, toda entidad que tenga una demanda importante insistirá en que es la entidad más trabajadora del mundo, y la más valiosa, y la más merecedora. Hablarán de sus sacrificios, su abnegación y todo lo que hacen por encima y más allá. Insistirán en que se les ha ignorado, despreciado y victimizado y que están a un paso de no poder llevar comida a la mesa.

Un Gobierno responsable debe atenerse a la realidad y no dejarse distraer por exageraciones ni hipérboles. Esta administración tomará las decisiones correctas para la gente y para el país, libre de agendas y sensacionalismo mediático. Nuestra trayectoria habla por sí misma.

CORDIAL VIDEO CALL: SPECIAL ENVOY ROSSANA BRICEÑO - FIRST LADY OF UKRAINE, OLENA ZELENSKA

First Lady Zelenska: Since the beginning of the full-scale Russian aggression, Belize has supported almost all initiatives of Ukraine on international platforms, voted positively for relevant resolutions within the UN General Assembly, becoming a co-author of many important documents.

The First Lady of the country, Mrs. Rossana Briceño, since 2022 - a permanent active participant of Summit of First Ladies and Gentlemen, in 2024 personally came to Ukraine for this. She supports all campaigns in our community, including co-organizing an event in the fields of the UN General Assembly, which a summit held last year focused on children's safety.

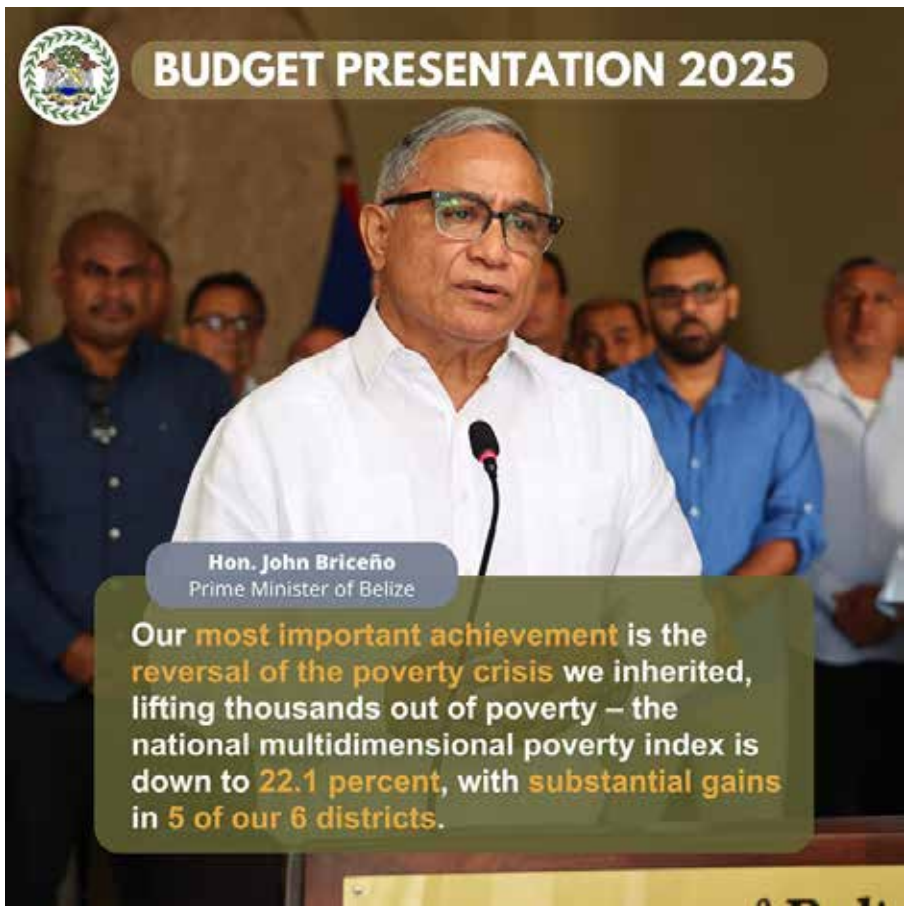
At the same time, my colleague is an active participant of a related organization - Spouses of CARICOM Leaders Action Network (SCLAN) - a community of spouses of leaders of the Caribbean countries. Our organizations unite common values, and the first is the desire for safety and well-being (residential, medical, educational) for the people of our countries.

This year, SCLAN has expressed its desire to support the summit's proposed new joint event in the fields of the UN General Assembly. I discussed these joint plans with Mrs Rossana.

In 2025, the UN General Assembly celebrates its 80th anniversary, so we have the opportunity to showcase the unity of the first ladies and gentlemen from different regions, united by a common goal. After all, over the years of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, my colleagues and I felt that our soft power is capable of saving lives and its quality.

Grateful to Mrs. Rossana, her country and the SCLAN community for the support and principle that increasingly bring us and our regions closer together.

Hope to see her on Kyiv this fall for the 5th Ladies & Gentlemen Summit. Each participant and participant of the summit contributes to it their experience, expertise, ideas, which together we can turn into help. (post)


BUDGET PRESENTATION 2025
Hon. John Briceño
Prime Minister of Belize
Our most important achievement is the reversal of the poverty crisis we inherited, lifting thousands out of poverty – the national multidimensional poverty index is down to 22.1 percent, with substantial gains in 5 of our 6 districts.

In 2024/2025, GOB put 20,000 lots in the hands of Belizeans, abolished fees at all public hospitals and clinics, and wrote off 54 million dollars in bills at the KHMH, benefitting poor Belizeans.
Highlights of 2024/2025

In 2024, BPOs paid a record 150 million dollars in salaries to 16,000 Belizean workers. Tourist arrivals set a record of 562,000 overnight visitors, making our tourism sector the most dynamic it has ever been.
Highlights of 2024/2025

RIVA BATTAM

Run dih Money

When you really think about it, the unions are going about this protest all wrong. They want $63 MILLION? Just do the math. Under the UDP, and actually under the stewardship of Saint Tracy who was Minister of Boledo, a certain ex-Prime Minister's son allegedly came up big-time using Brads as a front. And when we say big, we mean big. Comparing Boledo now and then, it seems that Brads and that certain ex-Prime Minister's son were pulling in tens of millions of dollars which were not reported to government. In fact, a little bird has told us that the Belize Tax Services has hit Brads with an assessment to recover monies not reported to or paid into Government. But the point is, the unions need to get real – if they want the money, don't attack the people who brought the economy back from ruin. Follow the money to the people connected to the past administration who are now living filthy rich. And don't let Tracy's act fool you. She knows well where the money went, and sure as hell she didn't care about public officers and teachers while the UDP were sucking the trough dry.

Poor Boy

We honestly don't mean to laugh, but Shyne is hilarious. A few months ago we joked in this column that all that was left was for Shyne to sue Tracy et al and ask the Court to demand that they stop using the color RED. Guess the fellow read the column and didn't know it was just satire. This fool has no chill. He is now asking the Court for an injunction restricting Tracy and crew from using red. We mean no offence to the mentally ill when we state, with certainty, that Shyne Jamal Moses Ibrahim Barrow bin Laden is mentally challenged. He is not well. And that's no joke. But we do have a joke to share. Sources in the know have told us that the morning following the judgment by Justice Hondora in the High Court, Shyne reported to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs demanding back his diplomatic passport, only to be told that that courtesy is granted to the leader of the Opposition, and not to the leader of the UDP. If he's reading this, expect another lawsuit next week when Shyne petitions the Court to force the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to give him back a passport.

Hypocrisy on Steroids

Tracy did nothing but embarrass herself during her first speech on the adjournment as Leader of the Opposition, and we're not even talking about the wheezing. Can you believe this woman got up to talk about election fraud? This same woman had over 80 people registered at her UDP office on Regent Street, and other houses in Albert with over 100 people registered. God is merciful and kind, because if He wasn't, for sure Tracy would have been struck by lightning for being so damn sanctimonious and pious when she is the poster child for Election Fraud. Imagine. That's like Patrick Faber getting up on a podium preaching against domestic violence and beating up women. Madness.

The Biggest Loser

I was watching Patrick Faber the other day, all pretty in his suit and tie, red-eyed and smelling of alcohol, and felt a slight tinge of pity for him. Not a lot, just an itty bitty amount. This guy has really taken people for a long ride, but that's all over now and he's just a nobody with nothing to show. The man said he was doing therapy but seems that was all a big lie. The man said he was doing his doctorate, but we've certainly seen no evidence of that. The man lost his Collet seat to a rookie who had campaigned for only a few months, which is the nail in the coffin of his political career. And now he has to be begging Tracy for crumbs, which is how he got his token senator seat, and has been relegated to hanging out with the UDP's token leper, OJ, which is as nasty and lowdown as you can get in the UDP. It's sad, any way you look at him, like him or not.

Empowering Working Mothers - BPO's Leading the Way!

Belize Businesses Lead the Way in Supporting Working Mothers with Onsite Daycare and Lactation Centers

In a groundbreaking move toward workplace inclusivity and employee wellness, two Belizean companies — Acquity and Transparent BPO — are setting a powerful trend in employee care by investing in onsite daycare and lactation centers/daycare. These initiatives not only support working mothers but also enhance job satisfaction, productivity, and employee retention. As more businesses recognize the importance of family-friendly policies, Acquity and Transparent BPO are leading by example.

Acquity is currently hiring a Daycare Manager to launch its first-ever employee-only onsite daycare facility at its Belmopan location. The company is searching for a qualified early childhood education professional to help create a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment for the children of its employees. With over five years of experience required, along with CPR and First Aid certification, the role highlights Acquity's serious commitment to quality childcare.

"This is your chance to build something meaningful from the ground up and support working parents with peace of

Continued from page 8

NORTHERN MEDICAL Specialty PLAZA

ORCHID DRIVE, B.S.I. AREA,
ORANGE WALK TOWN, BELIZE
PHONE: 302-3708

Northern Medical Plaza invites applications from experienced, dynamic, energetic, self-motivated professionals for the following vacancy of

GYNECOLOGIST/OBSTETRICIAN
INTENSIVE CARE SPECIALIST
2 RADIOLOGIST
PLASTIC SURGEON

Qualification:
Medical Degree
Valid license from the Belize Medical Council.
Knowledge &Skills
Excellent communication skills both written and oral.
Bilingual

Applications close: May 14th, 2025.
Please submit application letter and three References to:
northernmedicalhrdept@gmail.com
General Manager
Northern Medical Specialty Plaza Ltd.
Orchid Drive, BSI Area
Orange Walk Town

INVITATION TO BID

Institution: **MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, & SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE.**

Tender: **Invitation to Bid – Procurement of One (1) Crew Cab Pickup Truck**

The Government of Belize (GOB), through the Hydrology Department within the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Solid Waste Management, invites suitable companies to submit their bid proposal for the supply and delivery of One (1) crew cab pickup truck.

Minimum Required Specifications:

1. Model Year: 2025 (minimum)
2. Engine:3.0L 4-Cyl Intercooled Turbodiesel(190HP/450Nm)
3. Transmission: 6-speed Automatic Transmission with manual shift
4. 4 Door Crew Cab
5. Warranty: Five Years/100,000KM Bumper to Bumper

To obtain the complete Bidding document, including detailed specifications and submission procedures, please send your request via email to: procurement.asst@environment.gov.bz with CC to procurement.officer@environment.gov.bz

Deadline for submission: May 30th, 2025 10:00 A.M.

Opening of the 14TH SESSION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Hon. John Briceño

May 9, 2025

MADAM PRESIDENT,
MADAM SPEAKER,

We are here, today, because on the 12th March 2025, the Belizean voters exercised their constitutional right to elect members of the House of Representatives of their choosing. Belizeans flocked to the polls from the crack of dawn until the onset of dusk. 128,000 voters, quietly and in secret, cast their ballots, 65 percent of registered voters exercised their right to vote. And after the last ballot was counted a whopping 66 percent of the votes were cast for candidates of the People's United Party.

Madams, my colleagues and I are eternally grateful for the unprecedented show of support which we received. I congratulate all who won and those who participated in this exercise of Belizean democracy. Let me repeat our gratitude to all, especially the public officers and campaigners who worked tirelessly to ensure that we had successful election. Elections which were free and fair. A tradition that amplifies the constitutional edict that Belize "is a sovereign democratic State of Central America in the Caribbean region".

This simple, auspicious ceremony is not without significance. It is a public affirmation that Belize is a democracy in which free and fair elections were held and the collective voice of the people respected. Members of the National Assembly have openly taken their oaths, we have sworn on the holy book to uphold the Constitution and the law, and to govern without fear or favour, affection or ill-will. This sacred oath commands us all as servants of the people, to do good, to act in good faith and to uphold the reputation of our offices. Our democracy reflects a universal norm – power resides with the people. We govern with the consent of the people. We hold that power temporarily, in trust, for the Belizean people. The sacred mission of my government is to maintain the trust and confidence reposed in us during our new term of office.

Madams, our pledge is to continue to be consultative and to work in partnership with all stakeholders as we meet the awesome challenges which confront us. Our resilience, our ingenuity, our diligence will serve us as we shape a Belize prosperous, safe and secure. In our first term, planBELIZE delivered strong and consistent economic growth. GDP averaged 8 percent, unemployment reached a record low 2 percent, and we attracted an astounding 250 million dollars in Foreign Direct Investment in 2024 alone. In 2024 BPOs paid a record 150million dollars in salaries to 16,000 Belizean workers. Tourist arrivals set a record of 562,000 overnight visitors last year making our tourism sector the most dynamic it has ever been. We raised the minimum wage to 5 dollars as we promised benefitting 42,000 of the hardest working Belizeans. We raised the income tax threshold which moved an additional 3000 workers off the tax roll. We put 20,000 lots in the hands of Belizeans. We wrote off 54 million dollars in bills at the KHMH benefitting poor Belizeans. Through our innovative tax relief measures, 1,138 public officers and teachers who were previously paid income tax are now fully exempt, while an additional 1,175 have received relief through the tax credit mechanism, effectively lowering their overall tax burden. Who can forget the first ever GST-free weekends last Christmas? A measure that kept our dollars at home, reduced prices, and stimulated the Belizean economy. And yes, we will deliver on our pledge to make GST-free weekends permanent for Christmas and for back to school, beginning in August 2025. It will be an historic achievement when later this year we complete the national roll-out of the NHI, bringing affordable quality health care to all Belizeans. With that very successful record of delivering for the Belizean people, we face the future with confidence, excited to continue our work to deliver the ambitious goals of planBELIZE 2.0.

Madams, on the advice of the Government, her Excellency the Governor General declared a state of emergency on Tuesday 6th May 2025. This draconian measure was necessary to wage war on the criminal element in our society. The intra gang wars that kill Belizeans, that spread fear through otherwise peaceful neighbourhoods and communities, which threatens our way of life must be defeated. My government intends to take every step needed to excise this cancer. In addition to the State of Emergency, which is a temporary measure, we will continue our extensive efforts at mediation and at offering alternatives to violence. Our Government has dedicated substantial human and monetary resources to mediation.

On the other side of the coin, resources and resolve continued to flow to the Police Department to ensure that additional, well-trained personnel can be deployed to problem areas without sacrificing the security the wider community. Equipment for the Police has also been a priority. We expect, for example, that the new network of security cameras, will make a measurable difference in our battle against the lawbreakers. Next month, some 225 well-trained and qualified recruits will be passing out from our Police Training Academy and construction of new police stations across the country under CABEI will commence.

Most importantly, Cabinet has given directives to the Attorney General's Ministry to draft legislative amendments to increase the penalty for illegal firearm possession to 10 years and for the establishment of a Specialized Gang and Gun Court to treat all such offenses as indictable, assigning to it the requisite attention and priority that such offenses deserve. Adjustments will also be made to our State of Emergency provisions under the Constitution, to ensure that our law-abiding citizens and visitors feel safe and are not negatively impacted by curfews and restricted mobility. The good must not suffer for the bad and we must call it what it is - NOT a State of Emergency, but a Gang Intervention Period! Our government refuses to allow our citizens to be held hostage by criminal gangs and we will do whatever it takes to protect and preserve the safety and security of our citizens and visitors. We know we can and will win this fight against criminal behaviour.

How do we know? We know because we have seen the resilience and grit of our people displayed time and time again when faced with adversity. We know, because so many times we are called upon to recognize the commitment, perseverance and heroism of Belizeans when faced with challenges, natural and manmade. We are a nation of outstanding people, and on this particular occasion we recognize three of them, two here with us today. Twenty-two days ago, a hijacked Tropic Air plane landed safely at the Philip Goldson International Airport, thanks to the heroism of three men – pilot Captain Howell Grange, Jair Castaneda and Fitzgerald Brown. All three men were badly injured in an almost two-hour long ordeal, but because they would not give up, and because they kept their wits, all passengers survived to tell the tale. Because of the bravery of these men, the hijacker was neutralized before he could harm any other passengers aboard the flight that day. Imagine, if you will, that were it not for these men, and the quick-thinking and calm of Captain Grange, that plane could have been forced down in a populated area, causing mass casualties. That is real adversity, and it took real courage to avert it. Today we have with us Captain Grange and Mr. Castaneda. Regrettably, Mr. Brown is unable to be with us as a result of injuries he sustained, and we ask for continued prayers for his full recovery. I would like to ask all except Captain Grange and Mr. Castaneda to stand as we give these heroes a standing ovation. You are deserving of our recognition. The nation is grateful for what you did that day, and for the example you have set for all of us. God bless you and thank you.

As we continue to transform the Belizean economy and society, we will be implementing some bold initiatives. As an act of unquestioned nationalism, we rescued the Port of Belize from a never-ending receivership. Belizeans are now the proud owners of this public utility that is in desperate need of urgent repair, renewal and expansion. We are moving forward with a massive development project that is intended to transform the cargo, bulk and cruise facilities in an environmentally responsible way. The Port is Belize's marine access to the world – we must hasten to ensure that the on land facilities and the channel and harbor provide the most cost effective and time efficient link.

The sugar industry, the lifeblood of northern Belize for many decades, is facing strong headwinds. The Piper Commission of Inquiry has completed its work. Their recommendations must be carefully considered and where appropriate implemented after full consultation. As a necessary part of the reform of this industry, Government will propose the establishment of a Sugar Industry Authority to lead the modernization of the sugar industry to ensure it has a viable and profitable future both for the farmers and the millers. This is a critical mission that cannot fail.

My Government looks forward to receiving the Final Report of the People's Constitutional Commission. Our Constitution has served us well. It has protected the rights of our citizens, it has given us an independent judiciary, recognized and respected the diversity of our people, and provided the framework for the democracy we guard and cherish. But after 44 years as a nation state, we accept that the Constitution can be improved to serve us better and to be more faithful to the principles enshrined in its lofty Preamble. The Ministry of Constitutional Affairs is charged with advancing this important work. In this term we will have constitutional reform, we will complete decolonization, we will make paramount and Belizean our sovereignty.

Another imperative is electoral reform. The Elections and Boundaries Commission must discharge its duty and present redistricting proposals to the National Assembly in light of the constitutional standard. This is a national priority which must be completed with deliberate speed. This inevitable transformation of our political landscape will deepen our democracy.

Madams, I am advised that we are awaiting the date of hearing of the Guatemala – Belize and Belize – Honduras cases from the International Court of Justice. I am further advised that it is likely that before the end of this term, we will receive the ICJ judgments.

We have spared no resource. We have prepared our cases expertly. We are confident that we will prevail at the ICJ. We are confident that we will retain all our land sea and islands. We fully expect that the unfounded claims against our territory will be defeated. We will then, without condition, be able to live as good neighbours, secure in our borders and with unblemished sovereignty.

Madams, as we embark on this new term, energized by the overwhelming mandate given to us by our Belizean people, we are mindful of the storms brewing around us. We find ourselves in a maelstrom of swirling currents that has rendered unstable the international environment. The war between Russia and Ukraine continues with serious implications for the cost of goods.

The genocide in Gaza continues – the Rules of War are flagrantly broken, food and aid are weapons of war, neither aid workers, nor hospitals nor children are safe from the collective punishment being visited on Palestinians. Since the 7th October 2023, 51,305 people, including at least 17,400 children have been killed, and at least 117,000 people injured.

The civil war in Sudan has claimed more than 150,000 lives. And in what the United Nations has called the world's largest humanitarian crisis, about 12 million people have been forced to flee their homes.

The worldwide migration crisis continues unabated caused by civil strife, political persecution, weather related events and dire economic need. As of the end of June 2024, there are an estimated **122.6 million people** around the world who have been forced to flee their homes. Among them are nearly **43.7 million refugees.**

The climate emergency gets more critical with each passing day. The planet is hotter than it has ever been – 2024 was the warmest year with global average temperature 1.55 degrees above pre-industrial years.

And of late, a trade war has emerged. Supply chains have been impacted. Prices are rising. Economic growth has slowed. And a sense of instability and uncertainty pervades our world.

Still across the globe there is a deafening silence. International inaction where collective action is required. Increasing impunity in the face of horrendous acts by states and non-state actors. Wanton disregard for international norms where illegality is found. Death and starvation from famine in a world flush with food.

We are, ladies and gentlemen, experiencing what the dearly departed Pope Francis accurately described as "the globalization of indifference". Our charge as a member of the world community is to raise our voice and to insist on an urgent recommitment to foundational principles and collective action. Where there is indifference, we must be different. Where there is silence, we must speak our truth. Where there is inaction, we must insist on and support urgent action. My fellow Belizeans, this land of ours, this beautiful jewel, must be sustainably developed for the next generation.

Let us, together, continue the work of giants, the work of nation-building.

Let us continue to stay right on track.

In unity, with mutual respect, by unstinting work, and with the guidance of our Creator, because we know with his guidance, our endeavours will tend to peace, social justice, liberty, national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety and useful knowledge.

Belize Forever.

Belize for all.

I thank you.

"From Promise to Performance"
BUDGET SPEECH FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026
Hon. John Briceño

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Investment, Economic Transformation, Civil Aviation and E-Governance

Belmopan, Belize
May 12, 2025

I – Introduction:

Madam Speaker,

I rise for the high purpose of presenting to this Honorable House and to the Belizean people our Government's annual Budget Report. As is customary, the report provides a comprehensive health check of the public finances, with an assessment of the actual performance of the 2024/25 National Budget and projections of revenues and expenditures for this new Fiscal Year 2025/26.

Normally, the Budget Presentation and Debate are scheduled for the month of March, prior to the start of Government's financial year on April 01.

This year's Budget Presentation has been delayed, as everyone knows, because of the General Elections that took place on March 12.

Such a delay, which is provided for in the Finance and Audit (Reform) Act, is not unusual. Those on the other side know this or should know it. For their benefit and others who have questioned the timing, let's recall that in 2012, after the General Election of March 07 that year, the Budget Presentation took place on June 29.

In 2008, after the General Election on February 07 of that year, the Government presented the National Budget on July 14.

Despite these precedents and others, I am informed that the new Leader of the Opposition has publicly suggested that the timing of Government's Budget Presentation is somehow irregular or suspicious.

This is disappointing. Has she not resolved to make a break with the past and behave differently from her predecessor? His repeated false flags, crying wolf at every shadow, embellishing and exaggerating at every turn, all led to calamity for him and the Opposition Party on the 12 of March.

To paraphrase the songwriter, it seems "you all are going through changes, but you haven't changed."

Now, what would the Opposition have said, I wonder, if the Government had tabled an early budget, with the impressive performance I will explain today, and filled that Budget with election plums, as previous Administrations have done?

The Opposition would have stomped their feet and raised their voices in protest. Alas, as is now evident, an early budget was not necessary.

The people of Belize saw and felt the historic advances of the last four and a half years. And in their collective wisdom, they rewarded this Administration, for the second time, with 26 seats in this Honourable House. And the voters went further - they delivered a massive increase in our share of total votes, all the way up to a historic 68 percent.

More than anything else, we are convinced that this thunderous endorsement by the electorate, has to do with pocketbook policies; pocketbook policies that began right here with fiscal and economic practices that have engineered nothing short of a miraculous economic transformation during the four and a half years since this Administration took office in 2020.

The voters recognized that this is an Administration that turns promise into performance.

To set the table for this year's budget report and the new budget proposals, let me first recollect the crisis conditions that our Government encountered upon taking office back in 2020.

I will extrapolate from the Doctor's diagnostic – the IMF Report of the fiscal and economic health in 2020:

GDP had shrunk by 14.1 percent; Tens of thousands were without work;

The salaries of public sector employees has been cut and increments canceled; The overall budget deficit stood at 8.4 percent of GDP for FY 2020/21;

Public debt, at peak, was estimated at 132 percent of GDP and projected to remain menacingly high at 111 percent all the way in 2031.

And the most frightening assessment was this: "External financing is expected to gradually decline over time, worsening reserve adequacy and threatening the sustainability of the currency peg."

In plain language, Belize faced default and devaluation. Those were the dire circumstances of our starting point. Look at where we are today and how far common sense, pocketbook policies have brought the country from promise to performance:

In 2024, according to recently published IMF data, Belize had the highest GDP growth rate in the Western Hemisphere, at 8.2 percent, second only to the oil exporting nation of Guyana.

97 out of every 100 Belizeans who seek jobs are now working. This Government has achieved a primary budget surplus each year in office. The minimum wage was raised for all workers by 50 percent, to $5 per hour. And foreign direct investment has totalled $1.12 billion over the four year period January 2021 - September of 2024. Not only was default vanquished but the debt to GDP ratio currently stands at 61 percent, a level achieved 7 years ahead of the IMF's projected timeline. Not only was devaluation vanquished, but the Belize dollar is stronger than ever, sustained by combined central bank and commercial banks foreign exchange deposits of almost $2.2 billion.

Arguably, our most important achievement is the reversal of the poverty crisis we inherited, lifting thousands out of poverty – the national multidimensional poverty index is down to 22.1 percent, with substantial gains in 5 of our 6 districts. This Administration is constantly roused by the quality of life of our people, and that is why so much of the spending and investments I will unveil today focuses on education, health care, citizen security and infrastructure.

As I acknowledge the confidence lent us by the Belizean people in the recent election, I wish to salute, right at the outset of my presentation, the exemplary work of our public officers and teachers, of our private sector partners, of those in the NGO community and our external bilateral and multilateral partners, all of whom deserve a fair share of the praise for Belize's spectacular revival.

Moving from promise to performance, from the shifting sands of 2020 to the firm bedrock of 2025, is truly a story of teamwork.

https://mof.gov.bz/.../PM-Budget-Speech-Fiscal-Year-2025... or https://www.pressoffice.gov.bz/.../PM-Budget-Speech...

II – Global, Regional and Domestic Conditions

III – The Public Debt

IV – Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget Outturn

V – Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget Proposal

VI – Capital Program Highlights for New Budget

VII – Developments in Key Projects

- National Health Insurance(NHI)
- The Boledo
- The Millennium Challenge Corporation

VIII – Various Updates

- The Port of Belize
- Inflation
- Consumer Confidence Index
- Union Relations
- Investing in Lower-Cost Clean Energy
- World Bank Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option
- Annual Fiscal Strategy Plans

IX - Conclusion

Madam Speaker,

The author and renowned econometrician Simon Kuznets often remind his readers that measures such as changes to GDP are incomplete. These estimates do not account for key environmental externalities such as the quality of air and water, soil and biodiversity scales and the effects of climate change.

Today, confined by the very nature of a budget presentation, I have been compelled to an avalanche of numbers and data points. But, in closing, let me invoke a different kind of Report, one that goes beyond the granular details of economy and primary surpluses and budget financing. Let me speak of our people's happiness, a very important gauge of national well-being.

Each year, Oxford University, in collaboration with Gallup Polling and the UN Sustainable Solutions Network publishes a happiness index called The World Happiness Report. The ranking takes into account not just GDP per capital but the presence of social support systems, of freedoms, of citizens' generosity, of the perception of corruption, of healthy life expectancy and so forth.

In the most recent Happiness Report for 2024, Belize placed 25th of 147 countries polled, and 5th in the entire Western Hemisphere.

Such a high ranking for our small, vulnerable country in this increasingly turbulent world is an impressive statement of the national mood.

Happiness, whether for a nation or an individual is highly subjective. It's not political – you do not campaign on the promise of delivering happiness.

Still, the relative happiness of the Belizean people suggests that our governance approach, including this Budget, is striking a highly effective balance, on the one hand, ushering in a period of opportunity and prosperity while on the other, preserving the good spirits and unique optimism that has for so long defined us.

I truly believe this land of ours to be the world's most bountiful garden, its blossoms abundant so as to enable every Belizean life and tenancy like no other on this planet.

Together, as collective gardeners, as benefactors of generations to come, and with the guidance of our Creator, let us always tend with competence and conscience, the prolific flowering of national prosperity on the soils of social justice.

Belize forever. Belize for all. I thank you.

Empowering Working Mothers - BPO's Leading the Way!

Continued from page 5

mind," said a company spokesperson. "We are excited to grow our family as we grow our business."

Meanwhile, Transparent BPO has already made headlines by opening lactation center at its Belmopan location and currently working on the it is Belize City location. These private, secure spaces provide essential facilities for breastfeeding mothers, including comfortable seating, soothing lighting, a refrigerator for milk storage, snacks, and sanitary supplies. The idea originated from an employee suggestion, a testament to the company's culture of listening and responding to staff needs.

Angie Westby, HR Business Partner at Transparent BPO, explained, "A mother returning from maternity leave had no safe space to breastfeed, so she was using the restroom. That was a wake-up call. We knew we had to do better."

These efforts align with the Ministry of Health and Wellness and UNICEF's Baby-Friendly Workplace Initiative, which promotes exclusive breastfeeding and supports the health and well-being of both infants and mothers. Robyn Daly, Technical Advisor for Nutrition at the Ministry, emphasized that stress can negatively impact milk production and maternal mental health. "Providing a calm, supportive space reduces those risks and encourages continued breastfeeding," she said.

The company also plans to launch a full onsite daycare service, with the Seaside location already built and near operational. According to Transparent BPO COO Eric Petty, "We want our employees to be in close proximity to their children. It is about convenience and peace of mind."

The Government of Belize welcomes the initiative. Minister of Human Development, Thea Garcia-Ramirez, praised the model, encouraging other employers to adopt similar measures. "We want to make breastfeeding dignified and reduce barriers for women in the workforce. Safe, clean, and accessible spaces like these are essential."

Transparent BPO employee and expectant mother Shania Longsworth shared her excitement: "It is truly a blessing to work at a company that prioritizes something so important. We have everything we need—privacy, cleanliness, comfort, even snacks. It is all there."

As more companies follow in the footsteps of Acquity and Transparent BPO, Belize is quickly becoming a leader in creating family-friendly workplaces. These forward-thinking businesses prove that when employers invest in their people, especially working mothers, the entire organization thrives.

The Special Envoy H.E. Rossana Briceño posted: "I had the honor of joining the Ministry of Health & Wellness and UNICEF Belize for the official launch of two new lactation centers at Transparent BPO's Belmopan and Belize City compounds. These dedicated spaces are a vital step in supporting working mothers, ensuring they have a safe, clean, and private environment to breastfeed. I commend all partners involved for championing the health and wellbeing of our women and children.

It is my hope that other workplaces throughout Belize will be inspired by this initiative and provide the same opportunity for their staff."

Businesses interested in replicating these programs are encouraged to contact the Ministry of Health and Wellness for guidance and support.

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PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: PROPERTY

Santa Elena; Cayo District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following property. Sale currently running and will expire fortnightly on the date and time listed on the website until this property is sold.

1. Parcel No. 3029/1 Santa Elena, Cayo District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCELS
Santa Elena	23	3029/1
The Leasehold property of Mr. Eugene Ariola		

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TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO
TELEPHONE 223-4488
Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com
Facebook: Belize Auction

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: PROPERTY

Belize City, Belize District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Development Finance Corporation, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following property. Sale currentlyrunning and will expire fortnightly on the date and time listed on the website until this property is sold.

Coningsby Inn, Parcel No. 1249 Dr. Dame Minita Gordon Drive, Belize City, Belize District

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Albert/ Mesop	23	1249

(Being a two-storey mixed concrete and wooden structure containing Building 1- Ground Floor: One (1) Reception area + One (1) laundry room + One (1) storage area + One (1) Broiler Room + One (1) Bathroom [Approx. 2,010 sq ft.] First Floor: One (1) Kitchen + One (1) Dining Room + One (1) Bar + One (1) Porch. Building 2- Ground Floor: Six (6) Bedrooms Rooms each with private bathroom. First Floor: Five (5) Bedrooms Rooms each with private bathroom [approx. 2,960 sq ft] TOGETHER with Lot [394.05 S.M.] situate on Dr. Dame Minita Gordon Drive (Regent Street), Belize City, the freehold property of Ms. Jeanette Neal.)

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

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DFC FINANCING AVAILABLE ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS

School Garden Evaluations
Grand Finale Approaches!!

May 14 - As they approached the grand finale of the National School Garden Competition evaluation, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise is pleased to report that all participating schools have demonstrated exceptional effort, creativity, and commitment throughout the process.

Today, the evaluation team concluded its visit to the Orange Walk District, where 5 outstanding schools participated. Representing the high school category were Belize High School of Agriculture and New Hope High School. In the primary school category, Carmelita Government Primary School, La Inmaculada Roman Catholic School, and Nuevo San Juan Roman Catholic Primary School proudly showcased their garden initiatives.

The Ministry commends the hard work and dedication of all students and teachers involved. It is especially inspiring to witness young people embracing agriculture not only as a school project but as a way of life, recognizing its value and potential to improve their future.

The School Garden Competition continues to serve as an impactful platform for promoting agricultural awareness, environmental stewardship, and practical life skills among our youth. We look forward to announcing the final results soon.

As the judging team for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security Enterprises move forward with evaluations in the remaining districts into that final week, they took a moment to commend all participating schools in the Southern zones. The Ministry extends heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated teachers, enthusiastic students, and supportive parents who have contributed to making this competition a true success.

They concluded the final evaluation for schools in the Stann Creek District participating in the NATS School Garden Competition. The primary schools involved were Our Lady of the Valley Primary School and Silk Grass Sandy Creek Academy, while ANRI and George Town Technical High School represented the high school category.

The evaluation team was genuinely inspired by the love and passion students demonstrated for their gardens. From meticulously labeling plants to creatively designing their garden spaces, the students' dedication was unmistakable. Their efforts reflect not only their creativity but also a strong grasp of regenerative agricultural practices an encouraging sign that these vital lessons are taking root from the primary and secondary level. (Multiple Posts)

The best place for teachers and students to be is in the classroom. Plants are a great example. Students will learn that there is no day off nor summer holidays for plants. The same can be said for learning which is a constant process. The day that one takes to relax might be a step back. Teachers and students must find ways to learn even on relaxation days. Teachers should be teaching. Belize's children should be learning. Belize should be progressing.

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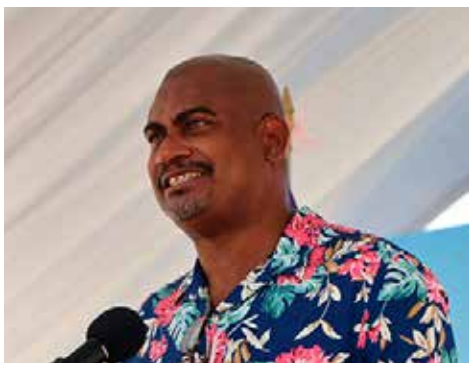

May 15, 2025 — The Government of Belize, in partnership with the Republic of China (Taiwan), has taken another major step in providing dignified housing to low-income families through the launch of Phase II of the Low-Income Housing Program. A grant agreement, signed in Belmopan, includes a generous contribution of US$1.425 million (BZ$3 million) from Taiwan to finance the construction of 50 starter homes in the planned Highland Estate community.

This initiative, spearheaded by the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH), showcases the ongoing commitment of both nations to social justice, housing equity, and development that empowers the people. The program took 15 months to complete, delivering studio homes that can be expanded over time.

At the signing ceremony, Hon. Julius Espat, Minister of Infrastructure Development and Housing, emphasized the long-term vision of the project. "A lot of people criticize the program because they say it is a small house," said Espat. *"But the concept is a starter home — a solid structure designed for growth. It provides an opportunity to people who have struggled, and it's about helping families and future generations find their footing."*

Hon. Espat detailed the collective efforts and investments that brought the project to life, with an estimated total value of BZ$7.5 million. This includes the grant from Taiwan, BZ$500,000 for land clearing and surveying, another BZ$500,000 for water and electricity infrastructure, BZ$1.5 million for road access and bridge development, and BZ$2 million for upgrades from the George Price Boulevard.

Hon. Espat encouraged local leaders to continue building strong communities, suggesting the addition of a community park to enhance social cohesion. "We can come together and have meaningful projects that make a real impact in people's lives."

Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño applauded the spirit of the initiative, highlighting the People's United Party's deep-rooted philosophy of social justice. "To be a true PUP, you must be a believer in social justice. This is about helping people live better, meaningful lives," he said. *"These homes are worth far more than the hundred dollars per month that beneficiaries will pay, so it is important that they meet their payments."*

Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Cordel Hyde, Minister of Natural Resources, underscored the significance of the program for Belize's public servants. "This subdivision was designed for our school wardens, teachers, and public officers — the people who serve our country day in and day out. They deserve decent

Continued on page 12

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A NEW ERA OF URBAN MOBILITY: eRIDE TAXI SERVICE

On Wednesday May 14, 2025, the Belize City Council, under the visionary leadership of Mayor Bernard Wagner, officially launched the eRide Taxi Service, Belize City's first fleet of 100% electric taxis. Mayor Wagner announced the introduction of electric taxi vehicles, eTaxis, in early February 2024, as an addition to the city's smart City ecosystem. This initiative is building on the eMobility Pilot Project which started with introducing two electric buses to the city.

The ebuses were funded by the European Union (EU) and executed with the collaboration of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Belize City Council (BCC), the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, Logistics and E-Governance (IMPUELE) and the Department of Transport (DOT). Mayor Wagner has always been an avid advocate of incorporating electric vehicles into Belize City's transportation network. On February 13, 2024, the Mayor unveiled four new Geely Geometry E crossover vehicles purchased by the Belize City Council at a ceremonial handing over of a garbage compactor and a display of a fleet of heavy machinery equipment at the Memorial Park in Belize City.

In his presentation at the launch, Mayor Wagner remarked "I am truly honoured to be here as we mark another important milestone in our city's evolving transport network." After highlighting the reduction of approximately 162 metric tons of CO2 emissions, Wagner proffered "This growing demand underscores why the eTaxis is not just a new option-it is a bold step in our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint, promoting energy efficiency, and protecting the environment for future generations." Importantly, a sustainable financial model has been established to ensure the viability of the eTaxi program. It was explained by Mayor Wagner that "The financial model will be crucial to cover the acquisition cost of the vehicles, maintenance, driver

compensation, and generate a return on investment to assist with funding the Council's operations and provide services to the residents of Belize City." Nonetheless, the launch of the eRide initiative is aligned with the Council's vision in its promotion of e-mobility and reducing carbon emissions.

According to Mayor Wagner the eTaxis is more than just environmentally-friendly they are accessible and designed for modern city living. The four Geely Geometry comes with features like real-time tracking, cashless payment options, and an Uber-style platform through the MiDriva app. The passengers can enjoy an affordable, efficient and secure ride using the app. The fleet of four eTaxis will be operated by trained Belizean drivers including females who will deliver a modern, respectful, and people-centred service to the residents and visitors alike.

Mayor Bernard Wagner remains steadfast as a visionary leader in the development of Belize City, which is reflected in his concluding statement, "As your Mayor, I remain committed to helping to build a transportation system that reflects the values we hold dear: innovation, equity and sustainability." once again that leadership is Always 'Bout the People.

By Hilly Bennett

STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

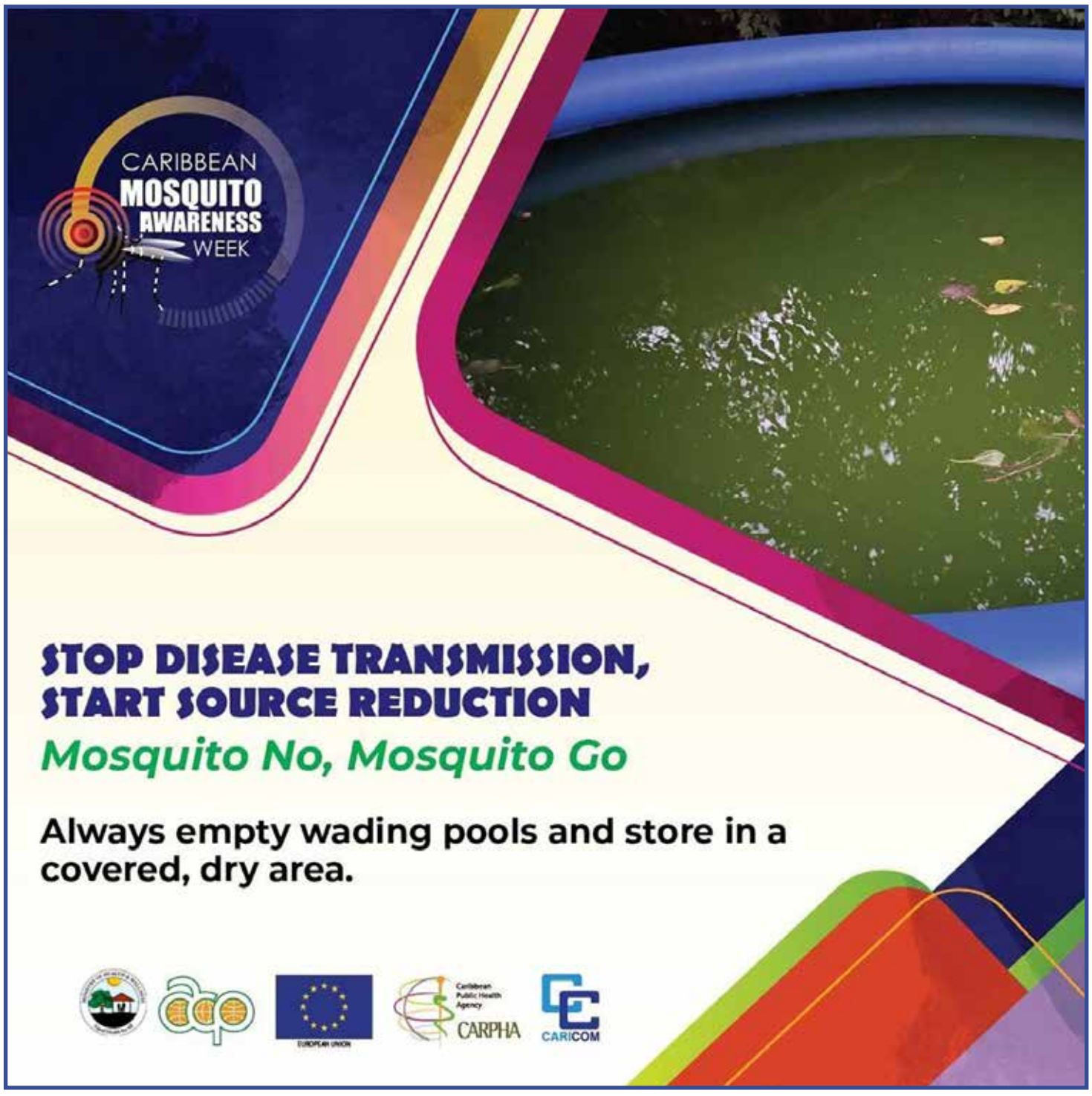
IN THE ESTATE of JOHN DENNIS JOHNSON JR. AKA JOHNNY JOHNSON, deceased of No. 1282 Central Drive, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas 77706, United States of America.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the substantive laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020, that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands upon or against the Estate of **JOHN DENNIS JOHNSON JR. AKA JOHNNY JOHNSON**, deceased of No. 1282 Central Drive, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas 77706, United States of America, who died on 29th September, 2022 and in whose estate Grant of Administration with the Will Annexed has been granted to **JULIO RENE MAAZ, of No. 4 Deep River Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District, Belize, lawful Attorney of BENJAMIN JOSEPH JOHNSON,** are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or demands with the said **JULIO RENE MAAZ c/o WA Lindo LLP, of 1583 Life Avenue U/F, University Heights Area, Belize City** on or before the expiration of three months from the first publication hereof;

AND NOTICE IS HEREBY ALSO GIVEN that at the expiration of the said three months, the said **JULIO RENE MAAZ** shall proceed to distribute the assets of the **said JOHN DENNIS JOHNSON JR. AKA JOHNNY JOHNSON**, deceased, amongst the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims or demands of which he shall then have had notice.

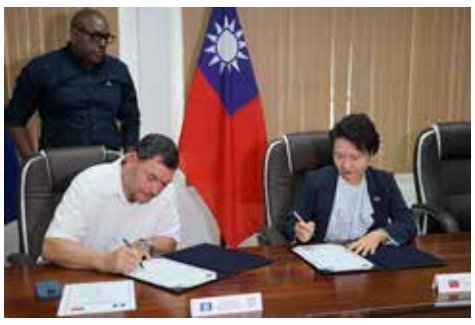
DATED this 13th May, 2025

WA LINDO LLP
Per: NATASHA ESPAT
Attorneys-at-Law for the Administrator



Belize and the Republic of China (Taiwan) Sign Grant

Phase II: Low-Income Housing Program



14 November 2023

The Government of Belize, by virtue of its close friendship and strong collaboration with the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan), graciously accepted a grant donation in the amount of US$1,425,000 that will be used to launch Phase II of the Low-Income Housing Program. This funding will be used to finance the construction of approximately 50 studio houses, which is expected to improve the living conditions of approximately 250 beneficiaries.

It is envisaged that the project will be executed at the planned community development referred to as Highland Estate. This planned community development will provide 831 parcels of land to first-time landowners within the City of Belmopan. This project is being implemented by the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing and is estimated to have a duration of 10 months.

On behalf of the Government of Belize, Hon. Julius Espat, Minister of Infrastructure Development and Housing, extends the highest appreciation to H.E. Lily Li-Wen Hsu, Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan), and the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan), and further commits to strengthening cooperation and friendly relations between the two nations.

FIFTY MORE HOMES

Continued from page 10

housing," Hyde stated. He also praised Minister Espat for convincing Taiwan's former President to support the initiative through thoughtful dialogue and a calm, persuasive approach.

H.E. Lily Li-Wen Hsu, Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan), explained that the idea for the housing grant took shape after President Tsai Ing-wen's visit to Belize two years ago. "During a bilateral meeting, President Tsai learned about Belize's low-income housing program. She understood the importance of meeting the housing needs of the underprivileged and committed her government's support," said Ambassador Hsu. "Projects like this are successful when you understand the people you are designing for."

This latest collaboration reaffirms Taiwan's strong diplomatic and development ties with Belize and represents a model for international cooperation that is rooted in empathy, mutual respect, and shared values.

As the Highland Estate community begins to take shape, the vision is clear — empowering Belizeans with the dignity of homeownership and laying the foundation for stronger, more inclusive communities.

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

Service contract to update the National Pandemic and Response Plan for Belize

CLOSING DATE
May 30, 2025

Find all the details and apply through our webpage by scanning the QR code.

PAHO Pan American Health Organization World Health Organization Americas Region

VACCINATION SITES IN BELIZE
MMR VACCINE AVAILABLE

	COROZAL POLYCLINIC	480 – 2076
	ORANGE WALK HEALTH CENTER	322 – 1469/380 – 1560
BELIZE	Matron Roberts Polyclinic	227- 7170
	Cleopatra White Polyclinic	223 0131
	Otto Rodriguez Polyclinic (San Pedro)	226 - 2536
	Caye Caulker Health Center	226-0166
CAYO	Belmopan Health Center	880 – 2263
	San Ignacio Health Center	804 – 2761
	Drs K and K Guerra Polyclinic	823-2079
STANN CREEK	Dangriga Polyclinic	522 – 3834
	Independence Polyclinic	523 – 2018
	Placencia Polyclinic	503-3326
TOLEDO	Punta Gorda Polyclinic	722 – 2145/722 - 2161
	Isabel Palma Polyclinic	722-2021

Vaccination prevents you from getting measles. Get vaccinated at any of the following vaccinattion sites.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS Equal Health for All
PAHO Pan American Health Organization World Health Organization Americas
unicef for every child

PlanBelize 2.0

PM Briceño and Min. Habet of Sustainable Development

Session with Friends for Conservation and Development

Government Meets with the Union

Prepared to listen and ready to lead with solutions

Min. Requena & Mos Cervantes, MoEST

Supporting Girls in ICT Day, #Leadlikea501Girl

Hon. Kevin Bernard, OW East

Paving in the Pasadita area

Hon. Marconi Leal, Jr., Belize Rural North

Bringing Cancer Awareness to his First Day as Speaker

Crooked Tree Sports & Entertainment Complex Canopy Project

Hon. Louis Zabaneh and Min. Mahler-BTB

Work on Multipurpose Park in Dangriga ongoing

Village Council in planBelize 2.0

Roaring Creek, an example of PUP Serving

Progresso is PUP; ¡PUP es Progreso!

Min. Oscar Mira, Minister of National Defence and Border Security

Briefed on Belize Coast Guard Command Plans

PlanBelize 2.0

Mother's Day Celebrations 2025

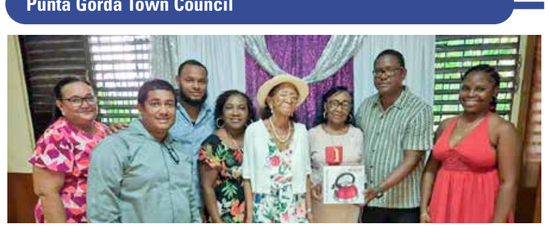
Hon. Garcia Ramirez, Corozal Bay & Corozal Town Council

Hon. Mira, Belmopan & Belmopan City Council

San Pedro Town Council

Orange Walk Town Council

Punta Gorda Town Council



Benque Town Council

Hon. Usher, Fort George

Hon. Mahler, Pickstock

Hon. Fonseca, Freetown

Hon. Musa, Caribbean Shores Carnival

Hon. Bernard OW East & OWTC

'Vamos Bien In 2025'

VOICE OF THE COMMON MAN

BUDGET 2025/2026 INCLUSIVE OF THE NATIONAL WELL-BEING

"5th in the entire Western Hemisphere on the 2024 Happiness Report"

By Hilly Bennett

On Monday 12 May 2025, Prime Minister, John Briceño presented to Parliament, at the temporary site of the National Assembly, the George Price Center in Belmopan, the budget for the fiscal Period 2025/2026. The budget is a crucial tool, a roadmap for the government in managing the people's finances, a financial plan that outlines projected revenue and expenditures over the fiscal period and the implementation of policy decisions. It guides how the government will generate and spend money during the financial year. Primarily, the budget is the mechanism utilized in achieving the government's socioeconomic objectives. This year's budget is styled: From Promises to Performance, reflecting the unprecedented achievements on the country's road to recovery since taking office in November 2020. The budget presentation was replete with successes realized by this PUP Government. The slashing of the debt-to-GDP ratio from 132% to 61%, a level achieved 7 years ahead of the IMF's projected timeline. The National Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index was reduced to 22.1 % with substantial gains in 5 of the 6 districts. 97 of every 100 Belizeans have been able to find work. This new budget is bold and progressive encompassing priority areas of Belize's future development from road infrastructure to energy to health, education and social investments. It is inclusive, considering the plight of the common man and woman.

This is evident in the CAP II allocation to health with $50 million for the operationalization of the National Health Insurance Program; $2.6 million towards the Healthy Start Feeding Program and $2.2 million for the Internet to schools; for Social and Community Development $6.3 for Community Development Programs, $7.1 million for Community Support and Small Grants Program; $1.5 million in Assistance to Small Farmers; $4.1 million for Youth Anti-Violence Multi Sectorial Program; For Land Development $22 million for land acquisition payments and land surveys. Many of these social investments contribute significantly to the offsetting of the cost of living and the inflation trap.

Embedded in the conclusion of the budget speech the Prime Minister leaned on the Econometrician Simon Kuznets take that measures such as changes to GDP are incomplete. Although the reference was confined to the suggestion that estimates do not take into consideration environmental externalities like the quality of air and water, soil and biodiversity scales and the effects of climate change, there are other aspects not considered, society's well-being or progress. Kuznets specifically pointed out that GDP failed to reflect the distribution of income, leisure, the value of unpaid work, social safety nets, and, as the Prime Minister mentioned, environmental quality. The PM's rationale for not recognizing the above-mentioned was the fact that he was "confined by the very nature of a budget presentation."

Prime Minister punctuated the point that he was compelled by an avalanche of numbers and data points. However, in the garb of nobility Belize's Prime Minister, John Briceño invoked a different kind of report. "One that goes beyond the granular details of the economy and primary surpluses and budget financing."

He spoke to Belize being placed 25th of 147 countries polled and **5th in the entire Western Hemisphere on the 2024 Happiness Report** with happiness being an important gauge of national well-being. The ranking is indicative of the government's myriad noble initiatives that bring a happy smile and tears of joy to many individuals in Belizean society. The many recipients of the single-mother and father first-time homeowner program, the first-time landowners, the free education grants, NHI membership and the GST-free weekends, amongst others. The unseen human side of this year's and previous years' budget was presented by the People's United Party (PUP) government, the John Briceño administration—one that transcends the promises into magnanimous realities. "From Promises to Performance."

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Institution: MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, & SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT - GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE.

Tender: **Consultancy for the Development of a 10-year National Environmental Policy and Strategy 2025 - 2035, its corresponding Mid-Term National Environmental Action Plan 2025 -2030 and Development of a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework**

The Government of Belize (GOB), through the Department of the Environment under the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Solid Waste Management, invites suitable **Consulting Firms** to submit proposals for the Development of a 10-year National Environmental Policy and Strategy 2025-2035, its corresponding Mid-Term National Environmental Action Plan 2025-2030 and Development of a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

The General Objective of this Consultancy is:

To contract the services of a Consulting Firm to update the current:

1.1. National Environmental Policy and Strategy 2014-2024, for a ten-year period from 2025 to 2035;
1.2. Update the National Environmental Action Plan 2022-2026, for a five-year period 2025 to 2030;
1.3. And for the development of a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

Qualifications Required:

Team Lead:
i. Minimum of Master's Degree in Project Management, Environmental Studies, Natural Resources Management, Coastal and Marine Management and other related science field.

Terrestrial Management Expert:
i. Minimum of Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies, Natural Resources Management and other related science field.

Coastal and Marine Management Expert:
i. Minimum of Bachelor's Degree in Coastal and Marine Management, Environmental studies, Natural Resources Management and other related science field.

For full Terms of Reference which lists further required Qualifications, Scope of Work, Required Methodology & Workplan, Deliverables, Payments & Timeline, and **Submission Procedures**, kindly request via email at procurement.asst@environment.gov.bz with a copy to procurement.officer@environment.gov.bz

Deadline for Submission: May 29th, 2025, no later than 10:00 a.m.

INVITATION TO BID

Institution: MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE & SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE.

Tender: **THE SUPPLY OF TWO (2) WATER QUALITY MONITORING STATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

The Government of Belize (GOB), through the Department of the Environment (DOE) within the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Solid Waste Management, invites suitable companies to submit quotations for the **supply of two (2) water quality monitoring stations** equipped with various sensors that will measure key water quality parameters. These stations must provide real-time data from remote locations, ensuring continuous and accurate monitoring of water bodies. These stations must meet the specified technical requirements listed in the bidding document provided upon request.

The supplier shall provide and commission the following:

I. **Supply two (2) complete water quality monitoring stations.**
II. **Each station must meet the specifications outlined in the RFQ, including all required sensors and associated equipment.**
III. **Provide repair services during the warranty period, as specified.**

For full bidding document which lists the required technical specification of each water quality monitoring station, its required features, company requirements for eligibility and Submission Procedures, kindly request via email at procurement.asst@environment.gov.bz with CC to procurement.officer@environment.gov.bz

Deadline for submission: May 29th, 2025, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time.

BTB Events

9th Digital Marketing Summit

Sparking Innovation Across Industries

May 9 - The Belize Tourism Board (BTB) hosted its 9th Digital Marketing Summit at the Belize Civic Center. The event brought together over 300 marketing professionals, content creators, and businesses for a day of inspiration, insights, and innovation.

The Summit focused on the latest in digital strategy, social media, content creation, and data-driven decision-making to equip attendees with the tools necessary to elevate their brand in an ever-evolving digital landscape.

The Summit was officially opened by Mr. Evan Tillett, Director of Tourism. Featured speakers included experts from organizations such as Yampi, LeapPoint (an Adobe partner), Bacardi, Vetrano Digital Agency, Development Counsellors International, Los Angeles Distribution and Broadcasting, The Story Catcher, TM Americas, and The Zimmerman Agency.

A special thanks to this year's sponsors: Bowen and Bowen, DigiBusiness, MADISCO, Wine Smith's Fine Wine Ltd., Travellers Liquors Ltd., COURTS, the Belize Recycling and Waste Management Association, and the Ministry of Tourism, Youth, Sports and Diaspora Relations.

Now Boarding for Belize!

May 8 - The Belize Airlift Development Conference convened regional and international airline partners today to discuss expanding connectivity, share airlift travel updates, and explore opportunities to strengthen Belize's position as an accessible travel destination. Altura Aviation presented a report on Belize's airlift landscape, which was followed by presentations and discussions featuring representatives from Air Transat, Spirit Airlines, Southwest Airlines, Copa Airlines, American Airlines, Cayman Airways, and Tropic Air.

The Sky's the Limit: B.O.O.M. x Airlift Industry Mixer capped off the day, wrapping up a series of insightful exchanges and collaborative dialogue across the two signature events.

We especially thank our sponsors and partners: Bowen and Bowen, Digibusiness, MADISCO, Courts, Travellers Liquors Ltd., Belize Recycling and Waste Management Association, and the Ministry of Tourism, Youth, Sports, and Diaspora Relations.

Today, we B.O.O.M.!

May 8 - Over 200 tourism industry stakeholders gathered at the Belize Civic Center for the annual Building on Our Momentum (B.O.O.M.) Forum. A powerhouse line-up of presenters took the stage, ranging from industry experts to keynote speaker Seth Borko, Head of Research at Skift. The BTB's partner agencies—Development Counsellors International, The Zimmerman Agency, GlobActive, and TM Americas—highlighted the latest trends and strategic developments shaping Belize's tourism future.

The forum celebrated recent tourism milestones and unveiled bold initiatives planned for 2025 – 2026, including the Grab Life Coach, No Barriers 2.0 Campaign, and the new Travel Belize website launch.

Dr. Vincent Palacio, Chairman of the BTB Board of Directors, opened the forum by setting the tone for a hopeful outlook and future-focused discussions on Belize's tourism industry.

Special thanks to our sponsors and partners: Bowen and Bowen, Digibusiness, MADISCO, COURTS, Travellers Liquors Ltd., Belize Recycling and Waste Management Association, and the Ministry of Tourism, Youth, Sports and Diaspora Relations.

NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 7(1) OF THE FISCAL INCENTIVES REGULATIONS CHAPTER 54 OF THE LAWS OF BELIZE, Edition 2023

It is hereby notified for general information that the principals of **Caribbean Organic Foodstuff Company Limited** (hereinafter called 'the Company') submitted a new application for an Approved Enterprise Order under the Fiscal Incentives Act, Chapter 54 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023.

Any person who objects to the making of an Order is hereby invited to,

a. submit notice in writing of his/her objections
b. state the grounds on which he/she relies in support thereof,

to the Executive Director, Belize Trade and Investment Development Service, on or before May 15th, 2025, to executive.director@beltraide.bz or call at 880-3737.

1. The Company is located at Carmelita Village, Orange Walk to produce flour, flour-based instant noodles, salted and sweet biscuits, bread and cooking oil for consumption in the Belizean market and intends to expand their operations. If the application is approved the company shall be an enterprise under the Fiscal Incentives Act.

2. The application is in relation to:

- ï Building Materials & Supplies
- ï Fixtures & Fittings
- ï Plant, Machinery & Equipment
- ï Office Equipment & Appliances
- ï Raw and Packaging Materials
- ï Utility and Transport Vehicles
- ï exemption from duties.

Approved by Executive Director:
Date: April 29, 2025
Comments: Approved

NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that the company **Morning Star Global Corp.** ("the Company") Registered under the Belize Companies Act 2022 commenced dissolution on the **07th** day of **March, 2025**;
and
Juan Sebastián Proaño Barrientos of **La Cruz de Puembo, Julio Tobar Donoso y Pasaje A - Lote 37, Quito, Ecuador** is the Liquidator of the Company.

Icaza Belize Trust Corporation Limited
Registered Agent

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the below company has been dissolved and struck off the Belize Companies and Corporate Affairs Register with effect from the date indicated:

Morning Star Global Corp. – 01st April, 2025

Icaza Belize Trust Corporation Limited
Registered Agent

Honey By-Products

Training of Trainers on Diversification

May 6 - The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security, and Enterprise, in partnership with the Belize Marketing and Development Corporation (BMDC) and the Climate Resilient Agriculture Project (CRESAP) project, is conducting a "Training of Trainers on the Diversification of Honey By-Products" in Mérida, Yucatán. The training includes 11 participants, comprising 7 leaders from beekeeper groups, educators from secondary and tertiary institutions, and representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise and BMDC, are attending the 3-day training session.

A key focus of the training provided by the CRESAP project is climate resilience. The honey industry plays a crucial role in food security and resilience. Honey is the primary product of beekeeping; however, beekeepers can expand their range of by-products by incorporating other products such as propolis, beeswax, and royal jelly. This diversification can enhance economic value and increase the variety of product lines, ultimately benefitting the beekeeping industry.

Participants will receive kits to help them develop products with their groups and train other cooperatives or formal organized groups. This initiative aims to promote ongoing growth and knowledge sharing across the country.(post)

Belize City Council Traffic Department

New ID – More Security

The Belize City Council's Traffic Department has officially upgraded its ID system with a brand new ID printer featuring advanced security laminate—a major step forward in our fight against counterfeiting.

This new technology means Belize City-issued driver's licenses are now more secure, tamper-resistant, and much harder to replicate, reinforcing our continued commitment to transparency, accountability, and public trust.

We remain committed to modernizing our services to better serve the residents of Belize City. It's all part of building a smarter, safer Belize City.(post)

The Belize City Council once again proves that it is at the forefront of being Always 'bout the People. With the BCC, a few might love to hoard parking spots on Albert Street but more people get access to parking for a few coins. The same can be said for the David Fonseca Parking facility. More u to date, the council has present a magnificent proposal for a floating boardwalk that has the potential to totally revamp the tourism outlook for the city.

The Mayor and the Council have a one-year-old mandate to improve the city including and beyond flood alleviation, garbage collection, youth enhancement, continuous cementing of streets, improvement of drainage in a city that is threatened by climate change, and more. They are doing plenty. More includes making driving more secure for the drivers and, more so, for the pedestrians who can be assured that drivers are licensed. Licensed drivers increase the chances that they are capable. Still, much has to be done to increase defensive driving; this means individuals changing their mindsets when they are behind the wheel.

BELIZE Social Investment Fund

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT SELECTION)

Belize
Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project (CRESAP)
Loan No.: 9347 BE
Project ID No.: P172592
Assignment Title: Water Resource Technician
Reference No. (as per Procurement Plan): BZ-SIF- 480755-CS-INDV

The Government of Belize has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") is for a suitable qualified **FULLTIME WATER RESOURCE TECHNICIAN FOR THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND ENTERPRISE (MAFSE).** The Water Resource Technician will support the MAFSE technical officers in building the capacity of farmers in the area of water management and climate change.

The GOB has appointed the Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF) as the implementing agency for the project and the BSIF is seeking to recruit an individual to fill the position of **Water Resource Technician for the MAFSE.**

The consultancy is expected to be for an initial period of Twenty-four (24) months commencing June 2025. The Water Resource Technician will be supervised by the Director of Water Management and Climate Change in the MAFSE.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be obtained by submitting a request in writing via e-mail to procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org.

The Belize Social Investment Fund now invites eligible individuals ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services (such as cover letter, Curriculum Vitae etc.).

Minimum Mandatory Requirements *(Required)
Qualifications
• Associate degree in agriculture, applied sciences, or other fields related to the assignment. (Max 10 points)

General Experience
• At least two years working experience in the public or private sector in the area of water resource management. (Max 20 points)

If these minimum requirements are not met, candidates will not be considered for the process

Additional Requirements (Desirable)
Specific Experience
• At least two (2) years working experience using various irrigation technologies (Max 20 pts)
• At least two (2) years' experience with providing training in water resource management using various irrigation technologies. (Max 20 pts)
• At least one (1) year experience assisting with the formulation of developmental goals related to water management and climate change. (Max 15 pts)
• At least one (1) year working experience with organizing adaptive research in irrigation or drainage management. (Max 15 pts)

Minimum total points required to be considered for the assignment is 75 points.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection of Individual Consultant method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours, i.e. 0800 to 1600 hours Belize Time.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **May 23, 2025** at 17:00 hours Belize Time.

Belize Social Investment Fund
Attn: Orlando Coc, Procurement Assistant
P.O. Box 459, 4253 Hummingbird Highway, Building C, Belmopan City, Belize
Telephone +501-822-0239
Email: procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org

Belize City Council: Making Belize City Resilient

The Belize City Council, under the leadership of Mayor Bernard Wagner, officially signed the Letter of Commitment to Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030), demonstrating the city's strong dedication to building long-term urban resilience and reducing disaster risks. This global initiative, led by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), aims to support cities in becoming inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

Through this commitment, Belize City pledges to enhance awareness of disaster risks, develop and implement inclusive risk-informed strategies, and take concrete actions that align with the MCR2030 framework. The letter outlines key goals, such as analyzing and applying the Ten Essentials for Making Cities Resilient, monitoring and evaluating progress through clear indicators and sharing experiences with other member cities across the MCR2030 network.

Mayor Wagner also formally designated Ms. Melony Dawson, Liaison Officer for the City Emergency Management Organization (CEMO), as the city's focal point for coordinating efforts under this initiative. CEMO will lead the charge in implementing resilience strategies, institutionalizing risk reduction practices, and collaborating with stakeholders across all sectors.

The Belize City Council extends its sincere gratitude to the National Emergency Management Organization-NEMO (NEMO) for its ongoing support and collaboration. Their partnership at the national level continues to be vital in advancing coordinated efforts to build a safer and more resilient Belize.

This milestone underscores Belize City's proactive approach to safeguarding its residents and infrastructure against future disasters while contributing meaningfully to global resilience efforts.(post)

Regional Workshop on Agricultural Input Procurement

April 29, 2025

Mr. Gregorio Canto from the Policy Unit is currently representing the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security, and Enterprise at the Regional Workshop for the Definition of Administrative-Legal Requirements in the Procurement of Agricultural Inputs through the COMISCA® Joint Negotiation Mechanism.

The workshop, which began on Monday at the Training Center of the Spanish Cooperation (CFCE) in La Antigua Guatemala, bringing together representatives from the Executive Secretariat of the Central American Agricultural Council (SE-CAC), the Executive Secretariat of COMISCA (SE-COMISCA), and delegates from CAC member ministries of agriculture.

Over the course of two days, participants are working collaboratively to develop terms of reference and evaluation criteria that will guide future strategic joint procurement processes for agricultural inputs. The objective is to improve efficiency, promote transparency, and strengthen food security throughout the region.

This initiative marks a significant step forward in fostering regional collaboration and ensuring sustainable access to vital agricultural resources.

BELIZE Social Investment Fund

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT SELECTION)

Belize
Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project (CRESAP)
Loan No.: 9347 BE
Project ID No.: P172592
Assignment Title: Field Technician
Reference No. (as per Procurement Plan): BZ-SIF- 474190 -CS-IN-DV

The Government of Belize has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") is for a suitable qualified **FULLTIME FIELD TECHNICIAN FOR THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND ENTERPRISE (MAFSE).** The Field Technician will support the MAFSE technical officers in building the capacity of farmers in the area of water management and climate change.

The GOB has appointed the Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF) as the implementing agency for the project and the BSIF is seeking to recruit an individual to fill the position of **Field Technician for the MAFSE.**

The consultancy is expected to be for an initial period of Twenty-four (24) months commencing June 2025. The Field Technician will be supervised by the Director of Water Management and Climate Change in the MAFSE.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be obtained by submitting a request in writing via e-mail to procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org.

The Belize Social Investment Fund now invites eligible individuals ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services (such as cover letter, Curriculum Vitae etc.).

Minimum Mandatory Requirements *(Required)
Qualifications

• High School Diploma in academic courses or any other field related to the assignment (20 points).

General Experience

• Experience working in the agriculture sector (20 points).

If these minimum requirements are not met, candidates will not be considered for the process

Additional Requirements (Desirable)
Specific Experience

• Experience or knowledge in agriculture field work (15 points)
• Experience in organizing or coordinating training events with farmers (15 points)
• Experience or knowledge about crop and livestock production (10 points)
• General knowledge about climate change and impacts of climate change in agriculture (10 points)
• Oral and writing command of the English language; knowledge of Spanish would be an asset (10 points)

Minimum total points required to be considered for the assignment is 75 points.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection of Individual Consultant method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours, i.e. 0800 to 1600 hours Belize Time.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **May 23, 2025** at 17:00 hours Belize Time.

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Attn: Orlando Coc, Procurement Assistant
P.O. Box 459, 4253 Hummingbird Highway, Building C, Belmopan City, Belize
Telephone +501-822-0239
Email: procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org

BTS Takes Brad's Boledo to Court

What was Minister of State in Economic Development Tracy Panton's involvement in Brad's Licensing in 2020?

In Mid-2023, Brads was eventually shut down for egregious disregard of reporting to the Lotteries Committee. They bluffed a lawsuit but as history is showing the Lotteries Committee was correct and followed lawful processes. Today, reports are the Brads Gaming Group Ltd. Is itself being taken to court, this time by the Belize Tax Service(BTS). The layman's version of the legality is that the Belize Tax Service has seen the transparent millions that the Government is netting with Fi We Boledo. The BTS has been building a case that the disregard for reporting by Brads Gaming was tantamount to withholding tax dollars from the consolidated fund. Today as the Unions are demanding a salary increase one of their stipulations is that Government clamp down on tax evasion. Plenty has been improved by the BTS in tax collection but more can be done. So was Brad Gaming Group Ltd. evading tax payments? If yes, the data is showing that this could have been in the tens of millions. Reports are that the profit margin of Brad's Gaming, or its iteration, was never really transparent.

For context: In December of 2023, The Belize Government Lotteries Limited was born as the entity that would make Boledo work for the people of Belize. Tendering began in midsummer for master agents that would then have resellers. Today there are 400plus resellers and there are two master agents that signed the final contracts at the George Price Center. The limitations to resellers were no more. The ghost owners of Boledo were no more. The fair or unfair pocketing of millions by private hands was no more. The people are seeing the National Health Insurance rolled out to the whole country. Additionally, fees at the public hospital are all non-existent. The KHMH saw the erasing of past debts going as far back as early into the Barrow's time of infamy. One cannot lose with today's version of the Boledo.

While introducing the Lotteries Control (Amendment) Bill 2023, PM Briceño made some eye opening statements about what can be described as maladministration of the government lotteries under Brads. The PM provided figures from a report prepared for the first 10 years of government lotteries since it was taken over by Brads Gaming Company Ltd. in 2010. Here, the report referenced the first 10 years under "Brads #1" because "they still used 'Brads' to confuse people, but dah di same group." PM then stated, "the sales started off at $5.8 million; then $10 million; $9.4 million; $12.8 million, $12.3 million, $11.5 million; 2016 it was up to $10.8; in 2017 it went down to $5.8 million; went up in 2018 to $16.7; 2019 when dehn mi di look fi want renew di contract, sales increased to $25.8 million; and then 2020, the portion for the first part of the year, they had $7.1 million. So, they have a sales total of $128.6 million. In business tax they paid $2.2 million. So, the (total)annual taxes they paid was $22.2 million or 17.3% of sales."

PM Briceño continued that on 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Brads Gaming Group Ltd. (BGGL) reported sales of $18.7 million. However, in August 2021 after the People's United Party administration came to power and the Lotteries Committee wrote them a first letter asking for information, "all of a sudden, sales went from $18.7 million to $43.3 million … In 2022 – guess what? Sales went up: $50.2 million. In 10 years they reported $128 million; now in one year, $50 million!" In two years(2020-2022) of the PUP, Briceño says BGGL reported $125.6 million, of which the People of Belize only received $11 million in taxes and license fees.

It was patently obvious that the Barrow administration officials did no checks of Brads to ensure that there was complying with its obligations under its license. So the planBelize government and Covid-19 unmasked a Barrow government and Brads, equally, and exposed them to the possible reality of some version of underreporting.

The Prime Minister's Budget 2025-2026 speech summed it up like this: "For the period November 21, 2023 through to 30th November, 2024, the government-owned and managed Belize Government Lotteries Limited recorded sales of some $111.2 million, which was for lottery sales revenues only. Additional revenues were collected for device rentals and sale of thermal paper. This was an increase of sixty-five million dollars or one hundred and forty-two percent above the sales as reported by Brads Gaming Company for the fiscal year 2022 – sixty-five million dollars more. And they had – about twelve years – so do the math. Prize winnings paid out for the same period was 77.6 million dollars, reflecting a playout percentage. We never did hear how much Brads Lottery paid out. We paid out $77.6M of sales to the Belizean people."

Later in the 2023 House meeting, Hon. Tracy Panton, who was the Minister of State directly responsible for the Gaming Control Board that approved the license to Brads Gaming Group Ltd. in 2020, rose to defend the license award to Brads: "renewal of the gaming management contract to run the government lotteries was not automatic. In fact, Madam Speaker, the contract agreement that was finalized was far different than the first contract agreement that was provided back in 2010. The terms and conditions were strengthened to ensure that there would be greater transparency and accountability, particularly in the reporting process to the government … When the application was made by the Brads Gaming

Continued on page 21

CENTRAL BANK of BELIZE

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

HR BUSINESS PARTNER - LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

The Central Bank invites qualified individuals to lead its Human Resources Department.

The HR Business Partner - Learning and Development is responsible for administering a comprehensive learning and development programme; supporting processes to enhance employees' knowledge, skills, abilities, behaviour, and competence in improving performance and job satisfaction; and supporting the Central Bank's business goals and objectives.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Collaborate with department managers to understand the workforce needs, skills gaps, and projected human resources needs.
- Conduct regular review and analysis of skills and knowledge gaps and ensure alignment of learning and development needs with departmental goals and objectives.
- Source and evaluate training providers, materials, and delivery methods tailored to diverse learning styles and needs.
- Develop and implement an effective mentorship and coaching programme.
- Administer and ensure compliance with the performance appraisal system and approved policies and procedures.
- Produce analytical reports on the execution and effectiveness of the learning and development programme and make recommendations for improvement.
- Analyse learning and development trends and metrics and prepare periodic reports for stakeholders.
- Support the recruitment process through candidate assessment, interviewing, and vetting procedures.
- Establish and monitor KPIs to evaluate the effectiveness of training programs and track progress.

The applicant should possess the following:

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- A master's degree in human resources management, business administration, or a related field from a recognized university with at least three years of relevant experience.
- Minimum qualification is a bachelor's degree in human resource management, management studies, business administration, organizational development, or a related discipline from a recognized university, with at least six years of relevant experience.

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

- Knowledge of latest trends and developments in human resource administration; Knowledge of the Belize's Labour Laws, Social Security Laws, and Income Tax Laws; Familiarity of the Central Bank of Belize Act, Domestic Banks and Financial Institutions Act, International Banking Act, Credit Union Acts, Moneylenders Act, National Payment System Act, and the Money Laundering and Terrorism (Prevention) Act, and their accompanying regulations; Strong supervisory skills; Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Analytical Ability, Communication, Customer Focus, Digital Ability, Initiative, Interpersonal Relations, Organisational Ability, Problem Solving/Judgment, Decision Making.

Submit the following documents by **Wednesday, 28 May 2025**:

- CBB Employment Application Form (Available online)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Names of two (2) current references

Applications should be addressed to:

Manager, Human Resources Department
Central Bank of Belize, Gabourel Lane, Belize City, BELIZE

Ref: HR Business Partner- Learning and Development- Human Resources Department

Email: hr@centralbank.org.bz or online at www.centralbank.org.bz
(All applications will be held in strict confidence.)

Public Health Update
Measles Outbreak in Belize

May 12, 2025 - The Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) hereby provides an update on the ongoing measles outbreak in Belize.

As previously communicated, two cases of measles were confirmed through laboratory testing on April 12, 2025. Additionally, five clinically diagnosed cases were identified, all epidemiologically linked to one of the initial cases.

Through heightened surveillance efforts, the MOHW is currently investigating additional suspected cases in Spanish Lookout, linked to travel to Chihuahua, Mexico.

Given these developments, MOHW strongly advises the public that there is ongoing measles transmission in the Spanish Lookout community and urges caution when visiting the area if you are not vaccinated. As investigations are ongoing, the number of positive cases remains undetermined at this time. Surveillance is ongoing, and the public will be kept informed accordingly.

To safeguard the health and well-being of our population, the MOHW issues the following vaccination and exposure guidelines:

Who Should Get Vaccinated?

Children: Two doses as part of routine immunization at 12 and 18 months of age.

o Unvaccinated individuals (over 18 months old): Two doses, given one month apart.

o Individuals who received only one dose: An additional booster dose is recommended.

o Persons unsure of their vaccination status: One dose is advised.

Travel Guidance

Travelers (12 months and older): Ensure vaccination at least two weeks prior to travel.

o Unvaccinated travelers under 1-year-old: Consult a healthcare provider for guidance.

Exposure to Measles – What to Do?

o Immediate Action: Get vaccinated within 3 days of exposure to prevent infection.

o Contact the nearest healthcare provider for further instructions.

Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) Vaccine

While the MMR vaccine is safe and effective, it is not recommended for:

o Individuals who are currently pregnant.

o Those with a severe allergy to a previous MMR vaccine dose.

o Persons who are immuno-compromised.

Guidelines Following Measles Exposure

o Vaccinated individuals: No quarantine required.

o Unvaccinated individuals: Quarantine for 21 days to prevent disease spread.

o Unvaccinated individuals vaccinated after exposure: Quarantine for 14 days.

The MOHW thanks the public for their cooperation in vaccine uptake and adherence to health guidelines. We remain committed to ensuring good health for the population and will continue to provide timely updates as new information emerges.

For further details or inquiries, please contact your nearest health clinic or call us at 0-800-MOH-CARE (0-800-664-2773).

CALL
280-8385 or
EMAIL:
belizetimesadvertisement@yahoo.com
To place advertisement in the Belize Times Newspaper

BTS Takes Brad's Boledo to Court

Continued from page 20

Group Ltd. to the Government of Belize back in 2019, there was no third-party investor out of Cayman…so to suggest in this honorable House that there was some kind of clandestine approach to the awarding of this contract is completely untrue…"

At that time the Prime Minister, in response, questioned why no government official did any follow-up to ensure Brads was complying with the terms of its license: "We did not cancel this contract out of malice. We cancelled the contract because they refused to comply with the requirements of the (same UDP) contract that they signed. And because of that, we are having an opportunity to fix it, and for the Government to have complete control and management of the Boledo for the benefit of all Belizeans." He added, "Everybody and dehn granny mi know that Brads mi wahn win that contract."

So full circle to 2025 and beyond, these questions should be answered in court. The Brad Boledo tax issue is live. The people deserve full disclosure.

CABEI
Central American Bank for Economic Integration

Invitation to Bid

Construction and Equipment of Santa Elena Police Station and Kitchen
N. º CABEI-WKS-007-2147/2025
One Stage-One Envelope

Date: May 9, 2025

1. **SOURCE OF RESOURCES**

The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), as part of the services it provides to its beneficiary partner countries, is granting total financing for the Procurement for the Construction and Equipment of Santa Elena Police Station and Kitchen, within the framework of the Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP).

2. **EXECUTING AGENCY AND CONTRACTING PARTY OF THE BIDDING PROCESS**

1.1 The Ministry of Economic Transformation (MET) is the Executing Agency of the Contracting Party, intends to use a portion of the funds of this financing to make eligible payments under the Contract for which this Invitation to Bid is being issued.

1.2 The Belize Integral Security Project, is responsible for the present Procurement process for which invites eligible construction companies to submit bids for this procurement in a sealed envelope.

1.3 The Contractor will be selected through international competition in accordance with the procedures of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration as established in the Procurement Policy for Procurement of Goods, Works, Services and Consultancies with CABEI resources and its Regulations, which can be found on the following web site: https://www.bcie.org.

2. **PRESENTATION OF THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS**

1.1 General Objectives of the Procurement for the Construction and Equipment of Santa Elena Police Station and Kitchen in the Cayo District.

1.2 The Contracting Party makes available to interested parties all the documentation related to this Procurement necessary for the preparation of bids.

Such information will be available free of charge:

a. Bidding package can be requested from the Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP), Project Executing Unit, 1904 Constitution Drive, 2nd Floor, Unit # 3, Belmopan City, at: santaelenapd_wks007.bisp@met.gov.bz and copy: projectcoordinator.bisp@met.gov.bz

1.3 Bids must be submitted to the address indicated below no later than June 30, 2025, no later than *2:00 p.m.* (Belize local time)

Electronic submission of bids **will not be** permitted. No late bids will be accepted.

Bids shall be opened publicly, in the presence of the representatives designated by the Bidder and any person who decides to attend, at the address listed below on June 30, 2025, at 2:15 p.m.

1.4 All Bids must be accompanied by a ***"Bid Maintenance Declaration".***

The address (addresses) mentioned above is (are): Elvis Requena.

Project Coordinator
Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP)
Programme Executing Unit
1904 Constitution Drive 2 nd Floor, Unit #3
Belmopan City, Belize C.A.

Announcement

Retention Packages

"Nurses Make the Difference,"

In celebration of Nurses Week, the Government of Belize has announced a $4 million nursing retention package to support all public health nurses, who represent 57% of the country's nursing workforce.

Rolled out in three phases, the package includes an increased uniform allowance ($300 to $500) and a 10% specialist allowance for all nurses, with performance-based increments.

In 2026, nurses will receive a $200 monthly hazard allowance and $100 Nurses Week overnight allowance for 10 consecutive night shifts.

By 2027, additional benefits include a $150 motor vehicle maintenance allowance, $75 telephone and $350 availability allowances for nursing leaders, and a $150 rural allowance.

This package is a strong investment in retaining and valuing our frontline caregivers.(post)

This package is really the reason why the BNTU finds that they have get a raise of their salaries. The debate is on as to the comparatives. What can be said of the nurses is easy. In the onset of the Covid pandemic in March of 2020 when most of the world went virtual that nurses and doctors lives became that of saviors. Their personal life had to take a back seat to the career they had chosen. While most of us went virtual for the better part of two years, the nurses literally had to fight for the lives of thousands while putting their own lives in peril. There is little the government can do to thank the nurses who toiled at that time. Also, the retention packages are meant to keep our own nurses, so in, God-forbid, another pandemic that we are in the highest state of readiness a health care system can be.

Hon. Kevin Bernard and the Ministry of Health & Wellness recognizes:
International Nurses Day
"Caring for Nurses Strengthens Economies"
Government of BELIZE

Department of Environment

Engaging Custom Brokers to Boost Environmental Import Compliance

May 14, 2025. The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management, through the Department of the Environment (DOE) and its National Ozone Unit, Information Management Unit, and Chemical Management Unit, hosted a national stakeholder engagement meeting with customs brokers on May 14 and 15, 2025, at the Grand Resort & Residences in Belize City. This two-day event reflected the DOE's ongoing commitment to strengthening regulatory oversight, fostering interagency coordination, and supporting Belize's compliance with its environmental obligations under both national legislation and international agreements.

By ensuring that imported commodities meet national environmental standards, the DOE is not only protecting human health but also preserving Belize's diverse ecosystems. Compliance with international agreements, such as the Montreal Protocol and the Basel Convention, enhances Belize's reputation and opens doors to global markets, promoting sustainable economic growth.

The purpose of the sessions is to provide an overview of DOE's permitting processes, clarify our obligations under key environmental agreements, address regulatory challenges related to plastics, chemicals, and ozone depleting substances, and reinforce the role of customs brokers in supporting national environmental compliance.

The benefits of these sessions extend beyond regulatory compliance. By safeguarding human health and the environment, we are ensuring a healthier future for all Belizeans. This initiative is critical to promoting sustainable development and aligning trade practices with environmental standards.

In response to a high participation, the stakeholder group has been divided into two cohorts across the two-day event. Each session will include interactive presentations, open discussions, and practical guidance designed to support customs brokers in navigating DOE's permitting processes and in fulfilling their responsibilities under relevant environmental regulations. Additionally, to accommodate those who were unable to attend in person, a supplementary virtual session will be conducted on Saturday, May 24, 2025, ensuring broader access and continued engagement across the customs brokerage community. (Release)

The DOE invites all stakeholders to actively support the DOE's efforts in environmental protection. With all Belizeans on board, we can definitely have a better chance at ensuring that Belize continues to meet its sustainable development and compliance goals.

CENTRAL BANK of BELIZE

www.centralbank.org.bz

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Central Bank Eases Access to Foreign Currency for Services

Belize City, 9 May 2025: The Central Bank of Belize (Central Bank) has expanded the delegation of authority to authorised dealers, enabling customers to buy foreign currency directly from domestic banks for service-based transactions. This new initiative streamlines the process for purchasing foreign currency, removing the requirement for individuals and businesses to obtain exchange control approval from the Central Bank prior to making payments or transfers to non-residents for specified services valued up to BZ$100,000.

The increased delegation of authority to domestic banks applies to the following 12 service categories:

- Accounting services
- Architectural services
- Audiovisual services
- Communication services
- Computer services
- Embassy services
- Engineering services
- Financial services
- Information services
- Legal services
- Postal and courier services
- Scientific and other technical services

To access foreign exchange under this new framework, customers must submit a valid service contract or invoice to their domestic bank. Transactions exceeding BZ$100,000 or falling outside of these service categories will continue to require prior approval from the Central Bank, in accordance with the new Exchange Control Direction Number 20.

The change went into effect on 2 May 2025, with the gazetting of Exchange Control Direction Number 20, which is available on the Central Bank's website. This update is part of the Central Bank's ongoing efforts to improve the efficiency of the exchange control system.

For more information, contact your domestic bank or visit the Central Bank's website at www.centralbank.org.bz.

- ENDS -

ISSUED BY:
THE OFFICE OF THE
GOVERNOR
CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

1 GABOUREL LANE.
BELIZE CITY, BELIZE
T: +501 223 6194

30th anniversary - Taiwan's National Health Insurance

Advancing health equity & promoting a healthier Taiwan

by Dr. Chiu Tai-yuan
Minister of Health and Welfare, ROC

Health is a fundamental human right and a universal value. Improved health results in greater well-being for the people and has ramifications for the survival and development of a country and even the world. At the 77th World Health Assembly, members adopted the World Health Organization (WHO) Fourteenth General Programme of Work for 2025-2028. The program includes such strategic objectives as improving health service coverage and bolstering financial protections to ensure universal health coverage. WHO has called on all countries to take action on these issues.

As concerns universal health coverage, **Taiwan launched the National Health Insurance (NHI) system in 1995. The scheme, which brought together already existing occupational insurance schemes, has reached its 30th year and now covers 99.9 percent of the population.** The NHI system provides equitable, accessible, and efficient healthcare to all people in Taiwan. It is also an important pillar and guarantor of Taiwan's social stability as well as people's health and safety. It has, moreover, become a global benchmark for achieving universal health coverage. In an annual survey carried out by Numbeo, Taiwan has been ranked first in the Health Care Index category for seven consecutive years.

The NHI operates on a pay-as-you-go, self-sustaining model capable of addressing the financial challenges posed by an aging population and rising healthcare costs. By reforming premium rates and adding additional funding sources, such as the tobacco health and welfare surcharge, the system is on a sound, sustainable footing.

To promote the health of our people, President Lai Ching-te articulated a vision of a healthy Taiwan in 2024. This aims to ensure that people are healthy, the nation is strong, and the world is more ready to embrace Taiwan. Remaining focused on people, families, and communities, we are expanding health promotion operations and preventive healthcare. Moreover, we are implementing a family physician plan, offering comprehensive care to patients with chronic diseases, and utilizing telemedicine to improve healthcare accessibility in rural areas. By promoting integrated long-term care, palliative care, and aging in place, we ensure holistic, lifelong, and dignified care for all people, realizing health equity.

In 2021, WHO released the Global Strategy on Digital Health for 2020-2025. Under this plan, the global health body is seeking the development and adoption of person-centric digital health solutions to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious diseases. It is also overseeing development of infrastructure and applications to use health data to promote health and well-being. Taiwan continues to utilize its prowess in information and communications technology to build effective, high-ROI health systems and services. The NHI cloud facilitates the more efficient exchange of medical records, while the adoption of international standards such as Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources enhances international medical data sharing. Additionally, the incorporation of AI-assisted technologies is advancing the development of smart healthcare. And the introduction of a virtual health insurance card and the My Health Bank app, which enables real-time management of personal health data, empowers people to make health-enabling choices.

In 2008, Taiwan introduced the Health Technology Assessment to facilitate evidence-based policymaking. It also accelerated the inclusion of new treatments under the NHI system. For example, in 2023, gene and cell therapies were covered for the first time, marking a new era for precision medicine and offering patients enhanced treatment options. Taiwan also continues to leverage innovative technologies to improve the working environment for the medical workforce and to bolster the overall quality of medical service.

What's more, despite facing political challenges, Taiwan has continuously participated in international health affairs and has been dedicated to supporting the global health system. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Taiwan played a crucial role in sharing supplies, strategies, and experiences, and proved to be a reliable partner of countries worldwide. Separately, Taiwan's success story in implementing universal health coverage offers valuable lessons for countries worldwide. As we continue to share our experiences in universal coverage, financial management, and digital health, we hope to facilitate other nations in reaching WHO's goal of universal health coverage.

In this rapidly changing era, health challenges transcend borders, and global cooperation has become essential to addressing various health crises. However, Taiwan has been prevented from participating in WHO—the foremost global health cooperation body—due to China's continued distortion of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 and World Health Assembly Resolution 25.1. Neither of these resolutions mentions Taiwan or declares that Taiwan is part of the People's Republic of China. Therefore, these resolutions have no power to confer upon the PRC any right to represent Taiwan in WHO.

In light of this, and to uphold the core UN values of inclusiveness and universality, we urge WHO and all relevant parties to recognize Taiwan's considerable contributions to global public health and the human right to health. It is imperative that WHO adopt a more open-minded approach and demonstrate flexibility, adhering to the principles of professionalism and inclusivity. Taiwan should be included, as a matter of pragmatism, in the World Health Assembly and all WHO meetings, activities, and mechanisms, particularly those concerned with the WHO pandemic agreement. Taiwan earnestly hopes to work with the international community to create a future of borderless healthcare that realizes the fundamental human right to health stipulated in the WHO Constitution and the vision of leaving no one behind espoused in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

CABEI Central American Bank for Economic Integration

Invitation to Bid

Construction and Equipment of a 911 Facility and Police Sub-Station
N.º CABEI-WKS-004-2147/2025
One Stage-One Envelope

Date: May 9, 2025

1. **SOURCE OF RESOURCES**

The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), as part of the services it provides to its beneficiary partner countries, is granting total financing for the Procurement for the Construction and Equipment of a 911 Facility and Police Sub-Station, within the framework of the Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP).

2. **EXECUTING AGENCY AND CONTRACTING PARTY OF THE BIDDING PROCESS**

1.1 The Ministry of Economic Transformation (MET) is the Executing Agency of the Contracting Party, intends to use a portion of the funds of this financing to make eligible payments under the Contract for which this Invitation to Bid is being issued.

1.2 The Belize Integral Security Project is responsible for the present Procurement process for which invites eligible construction companies to submit bids for this procurement in a sealed envelope.

1.3 The Contractor will be selected and awarded in accordance with the procedures of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration as established in the Procurement Policy for Procurement of Goods, Works, Services and Consultancies with CABEI resources and its Regulations, which can be found on the following web site: https://www.bcie.org.

2. **PRESENTATION OF THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS**

1.1 General Objectives of the Procurement for the Construction and Equipment of a 911 Facility and Police Sub-Station, Belize City, Belize District.

1.2 The Contracting Party makes available to interested parties all the documentation related to this Procurement necessary for the preparation of bids.

Such information will be available free of charge:

a. Bidding package can be requested from the Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP), Project Executing Unit, 1904 Constitution Drive, 2nd Floor, Unit # 3, Belmopan City, at: 911facilitypd_wks004.bisp@met.gov.bz and copy: projectcoordinator.bisp@met.gov.bz

1.3 Bids must be submitted to the address indicated below no later than June 17, 2025, no later than *10:00 a.m.* (Belize local time)

Electronic submission of bids will not be permitted. No late bids will be accepted.

Bids shall be opened publicly, in the presence of the representatives designated by the Bidder and any person who decides to attend, at the address listed below on June 17, 2025, at 10:15 a.m.

1.4 All Bids must be accompanied by a ***"Bid Maintenance Declaration ".***

The address (addresses) mentioned above is (are): Elvis Requena
Project Coordinator
Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP)
Programme Executing Unit
1904 Constitution Drive 2 nd Floor, Unit #3
Belmopan City, Belize C.A.

Unveiling of a Community-helping Concept

Crooked Tree Sports & Entertainment Complex Canopy Project

In Partnership with the Village Council, Hon. Marconi Leal is committed to contribute 50% of the funds to complete this Project.

Kudos to the Village Council and villagers who have done an exceptional job of raising the funds to execute this project mainly via The Tilapia and Cashew Festival.

The project is expected to be 75% completed by the end of June this year.

CLOSURE OF THE QUEEN CONCH FISHING SEASON

May 08, 2025

The Belize Fisheries Department hereby informs all fishers and the public that, in accordance with Statutory Instrument No. 54 of 2012, the Honourable Andre Perez, Minister of Blue Economy and Marine Conservation, will declare the Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*) fishery closed at the close of business on May 25, 2025. This is necessary due to the realization of the Queen Conch production quota for the 2024–2025 fishing season.

The fishing community is advised that all conch fishing activities shall cease as of this date until the opening of the next fishing season on October 1, 2025. The Belize Fisheries Department further advises all establishments and the public to use, consume, and dispose of all Queen Conch meat in their possession on or before **May 25, 2025**. Any person or establishment found in possession of Queen Conch meat after May 25, 2025, will be charged and prosecuted in a court of law in accordance with the Fisheries Regulations.

The Fisheries Department advises the Public to report any illegal fisheries activity by calling telephone number: 224-4552 (release)

CALL
280-8385 or
EMAIL:
belizetimesadvertisement@yahoo.com
To place advertisement in the Belize Times Newspaper

CABEI Central American Bank for Economic Integration

Invitation to Bid

Construction and Equipment of Camp Belizario Operations Headquarter, Hurricane Shelter Renovation and Renovation of Ablutions
N.º CABEI-WKS-006-2147/2025
One Stage-One Envelope

Date: May 9, 2025

1. **SOURCE OF RESOURCES**

The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), as part of the services it provides to its beneficiary partner countries, is granting total financing for the Procurement for the Construction and Equipment of Camp Belizario Operations Headquarter, Hurricane Shelter Renovation and Renovation of Ablutions, within the framework of the Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP).

2. **EXECUTING AGENCY AND CONTRACTING PARTY OF THE BIDDING PROCESS**

1.1 The Ministry of Economic Transformation (MET) is the Executing Agency of the Contracting Party, intends to use a portion of the funds of this financing to make eligible payments under the Contract for which this Invitation to Bid is being issued.

1.2 The Belize Integral Security Project is responsible for the present Procurement process for which invites eligible construction companies to submit bids for this procurement in a sealed envelope.

1.3 The Contractor will be selected and awarded in accordance with the procedures of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration as established in the Procurement Policy for Procurement of Goods, Works, Services and Consultancies with CABEI resources and its Regulations, which can be found on the following web site: https://www.bcie.org.

2. **PRESENTATION OF THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS**

1.1 General Objectives of the Procurement for the Construction and Equipment of Camp Belizario Operations Headquarter, Hurricane Shelter Renovation and Renovation of Ablutions, Cayo District.

1.2 The Contracting Party makes available to interested parties all the documentation related to this Procurement necessary for the preparation of bids.

Such information will be available free of charge:

a. Bidding package can be requested from the Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP), Project Executing Unit, 1904 Constitution Drive, 2nd Floor, Unit # 3, Belmopan City, at: campbelizariobdf_wks006.bisp@met.gov.bz and copy: projectcoordinator.bisp@met.gov.bz

1.3 Bids must be submitted to the address indicated below no later than June 17, 2025, no later than *10:00 a.m.*

Electronic submission of bids will not be permitted. No late bids will be accepted.

Bids shall be opened publicly, in the presence of the representatives designated by the Bidder and any person who decides to attend, at the address listed below on June 17, 2025, at 10:20 a.m.

1.4 All Bids must be accompanied by a ***"Bid Maintenance Declaration ".***

The address (addresses) mentioned above is (are): Elvis Requena
Project Coordinator
Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP)
Programme Executing Unit
1904 Constitution Drive 2 nd Floor, Unit #3
Belmopan City, Belize C.A.

Belize City Council on Vital Drainage Works

On the Ground Monitoring Progress

As part of the Belize City Council's continued efforts to strengthen flood mitigation and hurricane preparedness, Deputy Mayor Eluide Miller, along with Councillor Allan Pollard Jr. and Councillor Sherwin Garcia, conducted a site walkthrough today with members of the Council's technical team.

The team toured several critical areas currently undergoing drain-clearing and infrastructure upgrades, including: Freetown Road (Atlantic Bank to Mapp Street junction); Queen Street, Dean Street, King Street, Berkeley Street, Pound Yard Area

These visits were aimed at assessing progress on the ground and ensuring that all works are aligned with the Council's long-term drainage improvement strategy as we prepare for the 2025 Hurricane Season.

These important initiatives are designed to enhance water flow, reduce flooding risks, and safeguard the health and safety of residents and public infrastructure.

This proactive approach is part of the Belize City Council's broader vision to build a safer, more resilient, and climate-ready Belize City. (post)

Belize National Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, who through Jesus Christ has revealed Your Glory to all nations, please protect and preserve Belize, our beloved country.

God of might, wisdom and justice, please assist our Belizean government and people with your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude.

Let Your light of Your divine wisdom direct their plans and endeavours so that with Your help we may attain our just objectives.

With Your guidance, may all our endeavours tend to peace, social justice, liberty, national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety and useful knowledge.

We pray, O God of Mercy, for all of us that we may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the

observance of Your most holy law, that we may be preserved in union and, in that peace which the world itself cannot give.

And, after enjoying the blessings of this life, please admit us, dear Lord, to that eternal reward that You have prepared for those who love You.

Amen.

BWS

Invitation for Bids

REQUEST FOR BIDS

Belize
Water Supply & Modernization Program
5754/OC-BL
Supply and Installation of Water Disinfection Equipment for BWS Network
BL-L1043-P00001

1. The *Belize Water Services Limited has received financing* from the Inter-American Development Bank toward the cost of *Water Supply & Modernization Program* and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to payments under the Contract for *Supply and Installation of Water Disinfection Equipment for BWS Network.*
2. *Belize Water Services Limited* now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for *Purchase and Installation of Water Disinfection Equipment.*
3. The Request for Bids will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank's Policies for the Procurement of Works and Goods financed by the Inter-American Development Bank, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Policies.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from *Belize Water Services Limited, Ms. Stephanie Lozano, Procurement Specialist, rce@bwsl.com.bz;* and inspect the bidding document at the address given below from *8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Belize local time.*
5. Qualifications requirements include *Goods must meet technical specifications, financials, power of attorney and other requirements.* A margin of preference for certain goods manufactured domestically *"shall not",* be applied. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in *English* may be requested by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before *2:00 p.m. Belize local time on May 23rd, 2025.* Electronic bidding *will not* be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person or on-line at the address below at *2:15 p.m. Belize local time on May 23rd, 2025*. All bids must be accompanied by a *"Bid Security"* of *10% of bid price per lot* or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.
8. The address(es) referred to above is(are):

   Ms. Stephanie Lozano,
   Procurement Specialist,
   Belize Water Services Limited,
   7 Central American Boulevard,
   Belize City, Belize C.A.
   +501-222-4757

Armenia Village Water System Completed

Armenia Village now has a fully operational water system, completed today, bringing long-term relief from annual dry season shortages. The project is a collaboration between Hon. Julius Espat, Area Representative for Cayo South, and Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) with key support from the MIDH Belmopan Road Unit, the Ministry of Rural Transformation, the Water Board, and the local community. This marks a major step forward in ensuring consistent access to clean water for the village.(post)

This project is another powerful example of priority given to the delivery of water all over Belize. The government understands that water is life and access to it is the delivery of a greater quality of life. MIDH joins the fight that BWS, Rural Transformation, SIF and others persevere as part of the planBelize 2.0 team.

LETTER TO THE Editor

Necessary Sacrifice for a Safer Belize

Dear Editor,

With the State of Emergency (SOE) now in full effect, Belizeans may experience some inconveniences—checkpoints, and increased police presence—but these temporary disruptions are a small price to pay for the safety and security of our communities.

This SOE is not about punishment; it is about protection. It targets those who have chosen violence over peace and order. For far too long, gangs and criminal elements have held our neighborhoods hostage, causing fear, trauma, and even the loss of innocent lives. The Government's swift and decisive action is necessary.

We must remember that this is not just about enforcement—it is about prevention. It gives law enforcement the breathing room to disrupt gang activity and regain control of our streets.

As citizens, let us remain calm, cooperative, and supportive of efforts to restore peace. Yes, we may be asked to adjust our routines or show extra patience, but if it means safer schools, safer streets, and safer communities, then the sacrifice is worth it.

Security is everyone's business. Let us all do our part.

Sincerely,

J White

CALL
280-8385 or
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belizetimesadvertisement@yahoo.com
To place advertisement in the Belize Times Newspaper

CWWA CARIBBEAN WATER AND WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION
34th ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION 2025

34th ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION 2025

20-24 October, 2025 | San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize, C.A.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Share your work and learn from industry professionals, operators, and academics from across the region and globally at this year's Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association 34th Annual Conference and Exhibition under the theme "Engineering Progress Together: Collective Action for a Connected Region".

This year's Technical Sessions' Thematic Areas include:

1. Empowering Integrated Water Management for Sustainable Prosperity and Climate Change
2. Innovative and Resilient Water Infrastructure for Sustainable Utility Operations
3. Ensuring Clean Water and Sanitation through Effective Wastewater Treatment and Pollution Control
4. Promoting Sustainability through Effective Solid Waste Management
5. Fostering Inclusive Growth through Community Outreach and Public Awareness
6. General Topics

IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract Submission deadline: 16th May 2025

Notification of successful acceptance of Abstract: 9th June 2025

Scan for Guidelines for Submission of Abstracts

For more information, visit: https://cwwa.net/cwwa-conference-2025/
or email at cwwatechnicalpapers@gmail.com

ELECTIONS AND BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

Old Land's Building
Market Square
City of Belmopan
14th May 2025

DISSOLUTION OF VILLAGE COUNCILS

WHEREAS, Section 10 (1) of the Village Councils Act Chapter 88 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020, provides that the Elections and Boundaries Commission shall, at least seven days before any general election of members of the council becomes due under the provisions of this Act or any regulations made there under, dissolve that council, by Order published in the Gazette and on the radio;

AND WHEREAS, the general election of members of those Village Councils set out in the Schedule hereto becomes due on the **22nd and 29th June 2025.**

NOW THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by the aforesaid Section 10 of the Village Councils Act, the Elections and Boundaries Commission hereby dissolves the Village Councils set out in the Schedules hereto **effective 14th and 21st June 2025** respectively.

As from the said 14th and 21st June 2025 respectively, the following provisions shall apply in accordance with Section 11 of the said Act: -

(a) subject to the following paragraphs of this section, the members of the council shall from the date of the dissolution vacate their offices;

(b) all the powers, duties and liabilities of the council shall, until the constitution of a new council, be exercised, performed and discharged by the persons who held the posts of chairperson, secretary and treasurer of the council immediately before the dissolution; and

(c) all property belonging to or vested in or in the occupation of the council shall, during the period aforesaid, vest in and be in the occupation, control and management of the persons indicated in paragraph (b) of this section.

DATED this 14th day of May 2025

SIGNED:
(OSCAR SABIDO PUGA)
CHAIRMAN
ELECTIONS AND BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

SCHEDULE

VILLAGE COUNCILS DISSOLVED WITH EFFECT FROM JUNE 14, 2025

BELIZE DISTRICT
1. Lucky Strike
2. Rockstone Pond
3. Santana
4. Hattieville
5. Western Paradise

TOLEDO DISTRICT
1. Golden Stream
2. Indian Creek
3. Medina Bank
4. San Miguel
5. Silver Creek
6. Big Falls
7. San Antonio
8. Crique Jute
9. Mafredi
10. Pueblo Viejo

ORANGE WALK DISTRICT
1. San Lazaro
2. Trinidad
3. August Pine Ridge
4. Yo Creek

CAYO DISTRICT
1. San Antonio
2. Esperanza
3. Cotton Tree
4. St. Matthews
5. Franks Eddy
6. More Tomorrow

VILLAGE COUNCILS DISSOLVED WITH EFFECT FROM JUNE 21, 2025

ORANGE WALK DISTRICT
1. Indian Church
2. San Carlos
3. San Felipe
4. Fire Burn
5. Guinea Grass

CAYO DISTRICT
1. Santa Familia
2. Buena Vista
3. Roaring Creek
4. Camalote
5. El Progresso
6. Bullet Tree
7. Georgeville
8. Duck Run III
9. San Jose Succotz

BELIZE DISTRICT
1. Lord's Bank
2. Caye Caulker
3. Bermudian Landing
4. Flowers Bank
5. Rancho Dolores
6. Scotland Halfmoon
7. Ladyville

TOLEDO DISTRICT
1. Aguacate
2. Blue Creek
3. Mabilha
4. San Benito Poite
5. Santa Teresa
6. Jordan
7. Santa Cruz
8. Santa Elena
9. San Vicente
10. Jalacte

smart!
Bringing People Together

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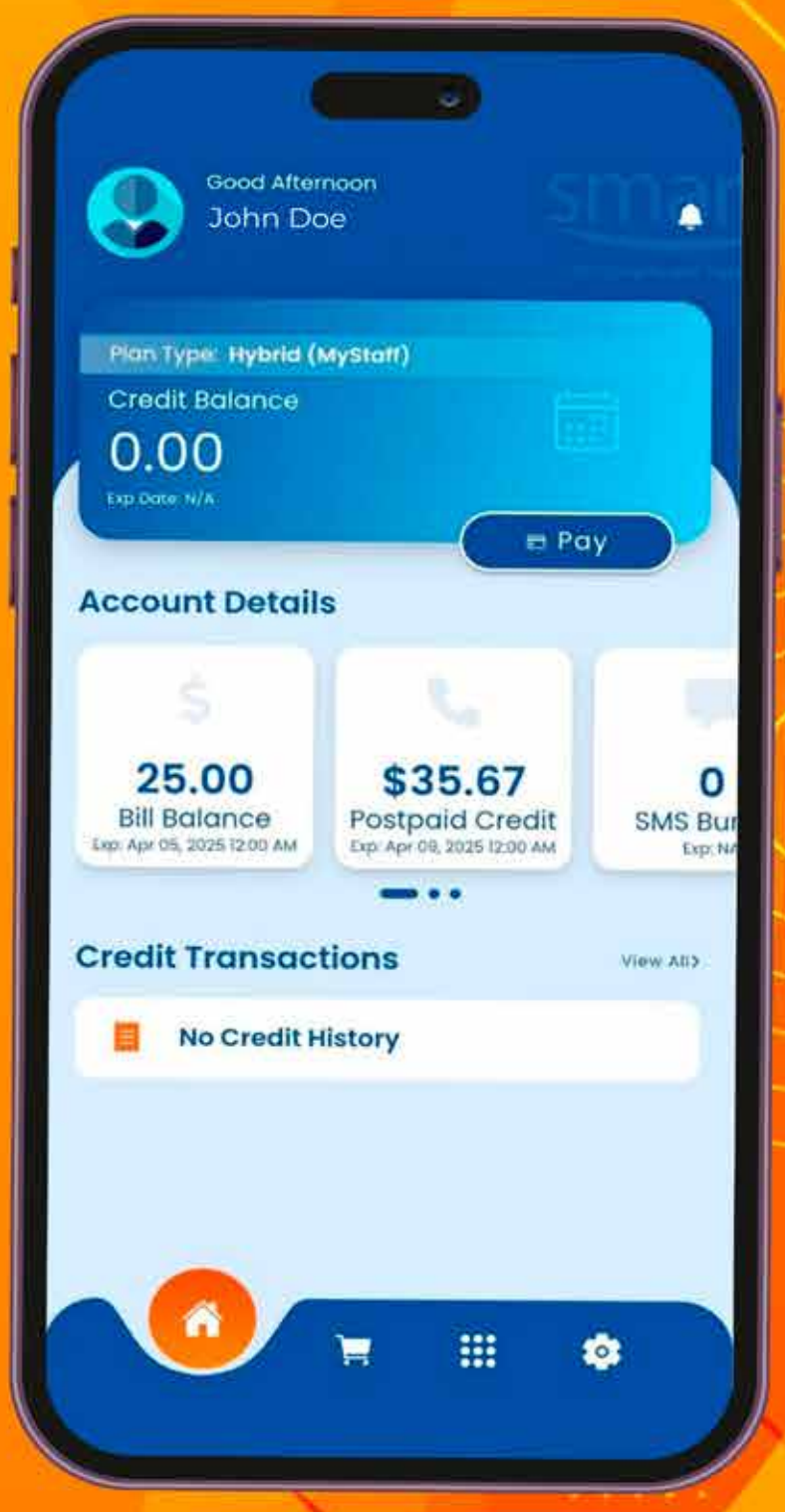
Get Promo Updates
View Agents Near You
Pay your Smart bill
View payment history



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FOR MORE INFO DIAL: 1090 OR 670-1096 | WWW.SMART-BZ.COM

VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2025

SCHEDULE

ALL Nominations Open at 9:00 a.m. and close at midday

COROZAL on May 25

Nominations on Sunday May 18
at St. Francis Xavier R.C School

VILLAGES ALL Polls Open at 9 a.m.	ELECTION VENUES CLOSE: No asterisk 1:00 p.m. * 3:00 p.m. | ** 5:00 p.m.
Concepcion **	R.C. School
San Joaquin**	R.C. School
Ranchito **	Gov't School
Calcutta **	Comm. Center
Carolina	Carolina Basketball Court (Tent)
Caledonia **	R.C. School
Libertad **	Methodist School
San Roman **	Comm. Center
Louisville **	R.C. School

ORANGE WALK on May 25

NONE

BELIZE on May 25

Nominations on Sunday May 18
at Edward P. York High School

Double Head Cabbage	Belize Rural High School
Isabella Bank	Comm. Center Compound (Tent)
Lemonal	Comm. Center Compound (Tent)
Boston	Boston Shed
Maypen	7th Day Adventist Compound (Tent)
Sandhill **	Guadalupe R.C. School

CAYO on May 25

Nominations on Sunday May 18
at Belmopan Comprehensive School

Valley of Peace **	St. Oscar Romero R.C. School
Unitedville *	St. Vincent Pallotti R.C. School
Blackman Eddy *	St. Martin de Porres R.C. School

Nominations on Sunday May 18
at Mt. Carmel RC Primary School

Arenal *	La Inmaculada R.C. School

STANN CREEK on May 25

Nominations on Sunday May 18
at Stann Creek Ecumenical School

Sittee River	Methodist School
Hopkins **	Holy Family R.C .School
Silk Grass **	Methodist School
Pomona **	St. Matthew's Anglican School
Sarawee *	Comm. Center
Hope Creek **	Methodist School
Mullins River	Comm. Center
Alta Vista	Comm. Center
Hummingbird Community	Comm. Center
Middlesex	St. Augustine R.C. School
Steadfast	Comm. Center
Valley Community	Comm. Center

TOLEDO on May 25

Nominations on Sunday May 18
at Toledo Community College

Boom Creek	Living Word Gov't School
Barranco	St. Joseph R.C. School
Conejo Creek	St. John the Baptist R.C. School
Crique Sarco	Sacred Heart R.C. School
Midway	Gov't School
Sunday Wood	R.C. School

VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2025

SCHEDULE

ALL Nominations Open at 9:00 a.m. and close at midday

COROZAL on June 1

Nominations on Sunday May 25
at St. Francis Xavier R.C School

VILLAGES ALL Polls Open at 9 a.m.	ELECTION VENUES CLOSE: No asterisk 1:00 p.m. * 3:00 p.m. | ** 5:00 p.m.
Santa Clara **	R.C. School
Paraiso **	Gov't School
Consejo	Consejo Library
San Andres **	Mary Hill R.C. School
San Antonio	Gov't School

ORANGE WALK on June 1

Nominations on Sunday May 25
at Louisiana Government School

San Antonio *	R.C. School
Santa Cruz	Gov't School
San Roman *	R.C. School
Nuevo San Juan	R.C. School
Trial Farm **	Gov't School
San Estevan **	R.C. School

BELIZE on June 1

Nominations on Sunday May 25
at Edward P. York High School

La Democracia	Comm. Center
Gracie Rock	Comm. Center
Biscayne *	Gov't School
Gardenia	Comm. Center
Crooked Tree*	Gov't School

CAYO on June 1

Nominations on Sunday May 25
at Belmopan Comprehensive High School

Armenia**	Gov't School
St. Margaret *	St. Margaret Mary R.C. School

Nominations on Sunday May 25
at Sacred Heart Primary RC School

Duck Run I *	New Life Gov't School
Duck Run II	St. Joseph R.C. School
Billy White *	Seventh Day Adventist School

Nominations on Sunday May 25
Santa Elena Primary RC School

Santa Teresita	Comm. Center

Nominations on Sunday May 25
Mount Carmel RC Primary School

Calla Creek	*Holy Cross RC School

STANN CREEK on June 1

Nominations on Sunday May 25
at Stann Creek Ecumenical High School

San Juan /Cowpen	*San Juan Bosco RC School
Maya Mopan	*Primary School
Red Bank	**Christian School
San Román	**United Comm. Primary School
Placencia	**St. John's Memorial School
Independence	**Primary School
Santa Cruz	**Gov't School
Santa Rosa	*United Comm. Primary School
Seine Bight	*St. Alphonsus RC School
Maya Center	*St. Jude RC School
Georgetown	Richard Quinn R.C. School

TOLEDO on June 1

Nominations on Sunday May 25
at Toledo Community College

Corazon Creek	Corazon Creek Tech. High School
Dolores	Our Lady of Sorrow R.C. School
Otoxha	St. Mark R.C. School
San Lucas	R.C. School
Monkey River	Comm. Center
Punta Negra	St. Cuthbert Gov't School

PUP
SE
SAN ESTEVAN 7
Rosaura Chan
Chairlady
Carmelita Blanco
Councillor
Adilet Patt
Councillor
Grisel Quinonez
Councillor
Saul A. Osorio
Councillor
Jeffery Escalante
Councillor
Yanelly Castillo
Councillor
MANIFESTO
2025 - 2028
• Expansión de la Aldea
Más calles, mejor conectividad, seguimos creciendo con orden y propósito.
• Renovación del Centro Comunitario
Un espacio moderno para empoderar, educar y unir a la comunidad.
• Acceso y horas extendidas para la Biblioteca para estudiantes
Tecnología y educación accesible en horarios extendidos para todos
• Instalación de Baños en el Campo de Fútbol
Comodidad e higiene para nuestros eventos deportivos y actividades familiares.
• Construcción de Pista para Correr
Promoviendo salud, ejercicio y estilo de vida activo en el corazón del pueblo.
• Eventos para la Unidad y Cultura
Día de las Madres, Fiesta Patronal, Navidad Infantil y Desfile Navideño ¡más tradición y alegría!
SIGAMOS CONSTRUYENDO UN FUTURO MEJOR.

VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2025

SCHEDULE

ALL Nominations Open at 9:00 a.m. and close at midday

COROZAL on June 8

Nominations on Sunday June 1
at St. Francis Xavier R.C School

VILLAGES ALL Polls Open at 9 a.m.	ELECTION VENUES CLOSE: No asterisk 1:00 p.m. * 3:00 p.m. | ** 5:00 p.m.
Chan Chen *	Gov't School
San Narciso **	R.C. School
San Victor **	R.C. School
Yo Chen	Comm. Center
Chunox **	R.C. School
Progresso **	R.C. School
Copper Bank *	R.C. School
Patchakan **	R.C. School
Sarteneja **	R.C. School
Xaibe **	R.C. School

ORANGE WALK on June 8

Nominations on Sunday June 1
at Louisiana Government School

San Luis	R.C. School
Douglas *	Our Lady of Fatima R.C. School
San Pablo **	Comm. Gov't School
San Jose **	Gov't School
San Jose Palmar **	R.C. School
Chan Pine Ridge *	Gov't School
Carmelita**	Gov't School
Santa Martha *	Gov't School
Tower Hill	Comm. Center

BELIZE on June 8

Nominations on Sunday June 1
at Edward P. York High School

Gales Point	Gov't School
Freetown Sibun	Comm. Center Compound (Tent)
Burrell Boom **	St. Therese R.C. School
St. Paul's Bank	Comm. Center
Willow's Bank	Comm. Center Compound (Tent)

CAYO on June 8

Nominations on Sunday June 1
Santa Elena Primary RC School

Yalbac	Comm. Center Compound (Tent)
La Gracia	Gov't. School
Los Tambos	*Gov't. School
Cristo Rey **	Comm Center

STANN CREEK on June 8

All Villages Complete

TOLEDO on June 8

Nominations on Sunday June 1
at Toledo Community College

Cattle Landing*	Comm. Center
Eldridgeville*	Comm. Center
Forest Home*	Little Flower R.C. School
Santa Ana	Comm. Center
Bladen (CC)	Fabian Cayetano R.C. School
Bella Vista **	Our Lady of Bella Vista R.C. School
Trio *	Gov't School
San Pablo	St. Paul R.C. School

VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2025

SCHEDULE

ALL Nominations Open at 9:00 a.m. and close at midday

COROZAL on June 15

Nominations on Sunday June 8
at St. Francis Xavier R.C School

VILLAGES ALL Polls Open at 9 a.m.	ELECTION VENUES CLOSE: No asterisk 1:00 p.m. * 3:00 p.m. | ** 5:00 p.m.
Cristo Rey **	R.C. School
Buena Vista *	R.C. School
San Pedro *	Comm. Center

ORANGE WALK on June 15

None

BELIZE on June 15

Nominations on Sunday June 8
at Edward P. York High School

Maskall *	Our Lady of Lourdes R.C. School
Bomba	Comm. Center Compound (Tent)
Corozalito	Comm. Center
St. Ann's	Comm. Center
Mahogany Heights *	St. Agnes Anglican School (Middle)
St. George's Caye	Open Lot (Tent)

CAYO on June 15

Nominations on Sunday June 8
at Belmopan Comprehensive High School

Teakettle **	St. Edmund Campion RC School
Ontario *	Ontario Christian School

Nominations on Sunday June 8
Santa Elena Primary RC School

San Marcos	R.C. School
Selena	Iguana Creek Gov't School

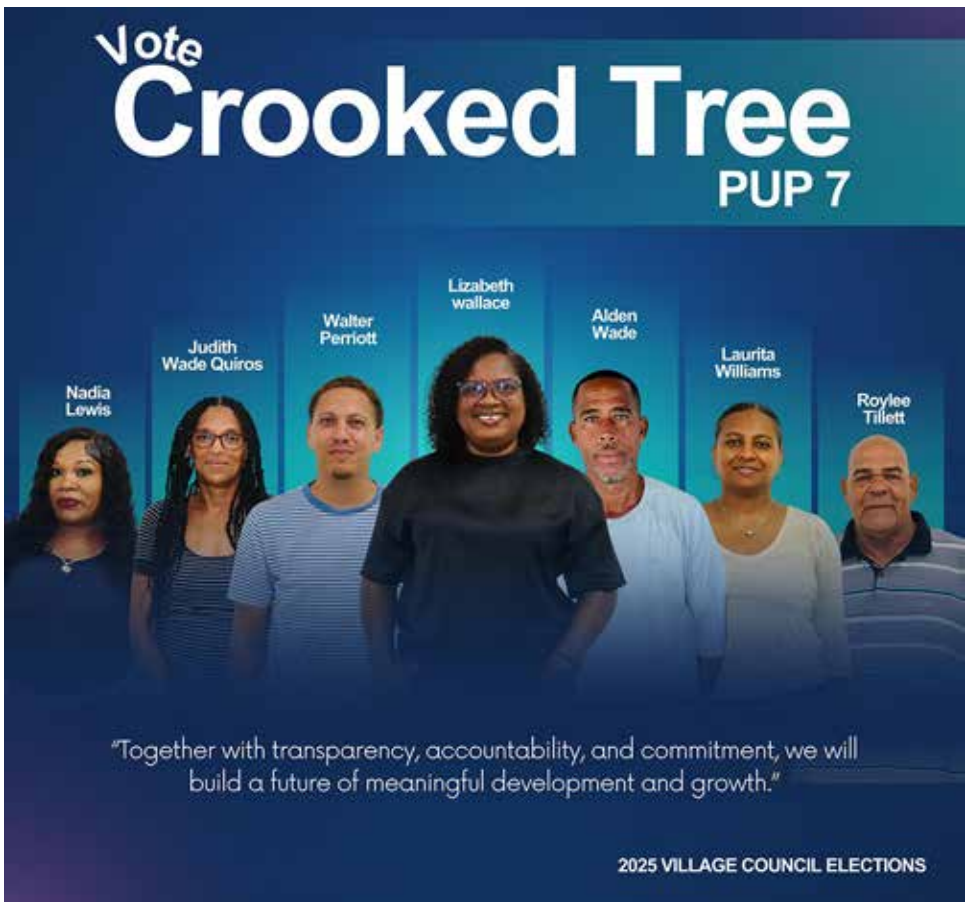
STANN CREEK on June 15

All Villages Completed

TOLEDO on June 15

Nominations on Sunday June 8
at Julian Cho Technical High School

San Jose *	R.C. School
Na Luum Ca	Gov't School
Jacintoville	Comm. Center
Laguna	Comm. Center
San Felipe	Comm. Center
San Marcos *	Comm. Center
Yemeri Grove	Toledo Christian Academy
San Pedro Columbia **	R.C. School



VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2025

SCHEDULE

ALL Nominations Open at 9:00 a.m. and close at midday

COROZAL on June 22

All Villages Complete

VILLAGES	ELECTION VENUES
ALL Polls Open at 9 a.m.	CLOSE: No asterisk 1:00 p.m. * 3:00 p.m. | ** 5:00 p.m.

ORANGE WALK on June 22

Nominations on Sunday June 15 at Louisiana Government School

San Lazaro **	R.C. School
Trinidad *	Gov't School
August Pine Ridge **	R.C. School
Yo Creek **	R.C. School

BELIZE on June 22

Nominations on Sunday June 15 at Edward P. York High School

Lucky Strike	Gov't School
Rockstone Pond	Altun Ha Parking Lot (Tent)
Santana	Comm. Center
Hattieville **	Gov't School
Western Paradise*	Comm. Center

CAYO on June 22

Nominations on Sunday June 15 at Belmopan Comprehensive High School

Cotton Tree **	St. Joseph RC School
St. Matthews *	Gov't. School
Franks Eddy *	Gov't. School
More Tomorrow	Gov't. School

Nominations on Sunday June 15 at Sacred Heart Primary RC School

Esperanza **	St. Francis Xavier RC School

Nominations on Sunday June 15 Santa Elena Primary RC School

San Antonio **	United Pentecostal School

Nominations on Sunday June 15 Mount Carmel RC Primary School

San Jose Succotz **	San Jose Succotz RC School

STANN CREEK on June 22

All Villages Complete

TOLEDO on June 22

Nominations on Sunday June 15 at Julian Cho Technical High School

Golden Stream	Gov't School
Indian Creek *	R.C. School
Medina Bank	Gov't School
San Miguel *	R.C. School
Silver Creek *	R.C. School
Big Falls **	R.C. School
San Antonio **	San Luis Rey R.C. School
Crique Jute	Gov't School
Mafredi	Methodist School
Pueblo Viejo *	San Francisco de Jeronimo R.C. School

VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2025

SCHEDULE

ALL Nominations Open at 9:00 a.m. and close at midday

COROZAL on June 29

All Villages complete

VILLAGES	ELECTION VENUES
ALL Polls Open at 9 a.m.	CLOSE: No asterisk 1:00 p.m. * 3:00 p.m. | ** 5:00 p.m.

ORANGE WALK on June 29

Nominations on Sunday June 22 at Louisiana Government School

Indian Church	Gov't School
San Carlos	Gov't School
San Felipe **	St. Michael R.C. School
Fire Burn	Gov't School
Guinea Grass **	R.C. School

BELIZE on June 29

Nominations on Sunday June 22 at Edward P. York High School

Lord's Bank **	Comm. Center
Caye Caulker **	R.C. School
Bermudian Landing	Belize Rural PS (Bermudian Landing)
Flowers Bank	Comm. Center
Rancho Dolores	Belize Rural PS (Rancho Dolores)
Scotland Halfmoon	Comm. Center
Ladyville **	Our Lady of the Way R.C. School

CAYO on June 29

Nominations on Sunday June 22 at Belmopan Comprehensive High School

Roaring Creek **	Our Lady of Fatima R.C. School
Camalote **	St. Jude R.C. School

Nominations on Sunday June 22 at Sacred Heart Primary RC School

Santa Familia **	RC School
Bullet Tree **	Immaculate Conception R.C. School
8. Duck Run III *	Hidden Paradise Gov't School

Nominations on Sunday June 22 Santa Elena Primary RC School

Buena Vista	*Gov't School
El Progresso *	Community School
Georgeville *	Comm. Center

Nominations on Sunday June 22 Mount Carmel RC Primary School

San Jose Succotz	San Jose Succotz R.C. School

STANN CREEK on June 29

All Villages Complete

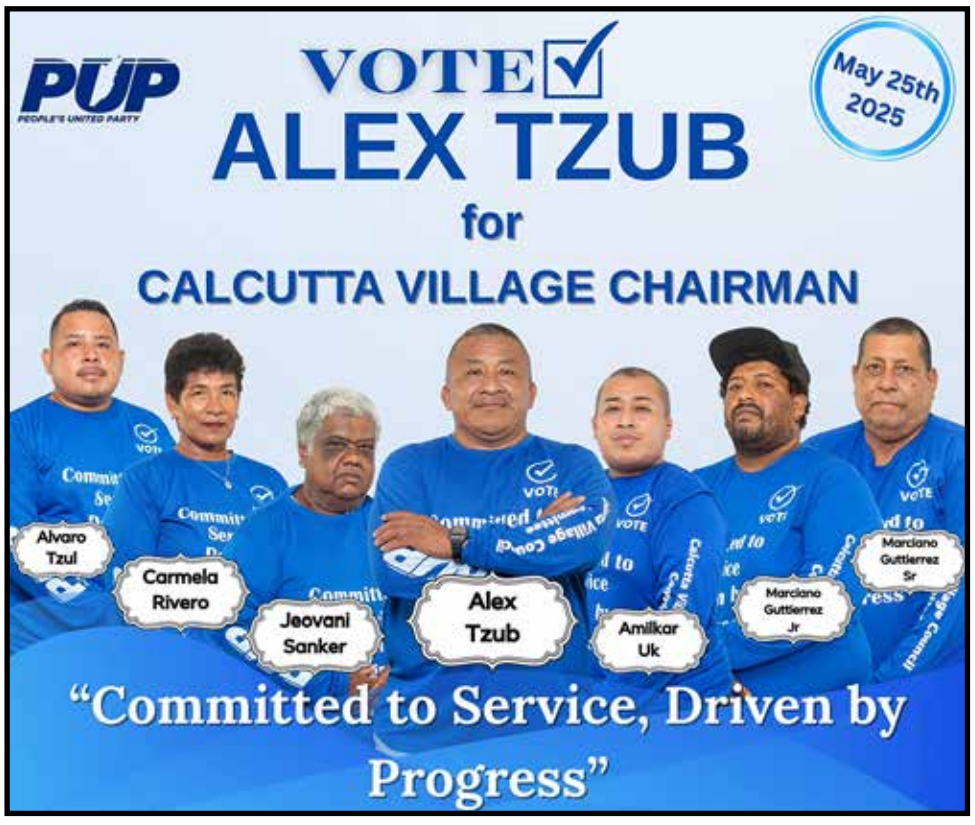
TOLEDO on June 29

Nominations on Sunday June 22 at Toledo Community College

Aguacate	R.C. School
Blue Creek	R.C. School
Mabilha	Gov't School
San Benito Poite	R.C. School
Santa Teresa	R.C. School
Jordan	Comm. Center
Santa Cruz*	Comm. Center
Santa Elena	R.C. School
San Vicente	R.C. School
Jalacte *	R.C. School

Ruby Chan
Ariadne Tun
Ameli Campos
Idelfonso Acosta
Francisco Cawich
Gabriel Novelo
Luis Chan

SAN PABLO VILLAGE COUNCIL
Clear Plans Bold Actions
One Village, One Voice.
SUNDAY, JUNE 8TH 2025
VOTE PUP 7
PUP
PEOPLE'S UNITED PARTY


PUP
PEOPLE'S UNITED PARTY
VOTE
ALEX TZUB
for
CALCUTTA VILLAGE CHAIRMAN
May 25th 2025
Alvaro Tzul
Carmela Rivero
Jeovani Sanker
Alex Tzub
Amilkar Uk
Marciano Guttierrez Jr
Marciano Guttierrez Sr
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